

# **GENESEE COUNTY MISSING CAT**

## **Tips and Resources Recommended by Frank Vacarro, 7/23/20**

I am sorry your cat is missing.

### **HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR FINDING YOUR MISSING CAT**

- 1- If you're not sure how your cat got out, do a thorough search of your house first: closets, dresser drawers, basements, crawl spaces, etc. Cats that are in "hiding mode" probably won't meow because they are not trying to get your attention. Once you're sure your cat is not in your house start the outdoor search.
- 2- Indoor only cats that stray can have a harder time finding their way back than cats that are indoor/outdoor cats. If your cat is an indoor cat your cat is probably close by but will likely be in "survival mode." More about that later. If you also have a dog that's friendly to this kitty, try taking the dog for a walk nearby.
- 3- Talk to your neighbors, search your immediate surroundings - closed garages, in and under sheds, under bushes, up trees. Plan to search after dark, and ask your neighbors if you can search in their yards after dark with flashlights and friends.
- 4- While you're waiting to search after dark, create flyers to distribute in your neighborhood the next day if your nighttime search is unproductive.
- 5- If your cat is an indoor only cat, place items with your scent outdoors near where you think your cat escaped. You are doing this to use your own familiar scent to attract it back home. (Putting out cat's used litter is no longer advised since it can actually attract other critters or predators that might force your cat to run further away.)
- 6- Search those same places again after dark with flashlights and friends. The later, the better. 3-5 am is a time when cats in survival mode seem to be most active.
- 7- Know that as you search, whether daytime or nighttime, you are also leaving your scent as a trail for your cat to follow home. After your search, walk directly home and try simply waiting. (We recently had a gentleman put sardine oil on the soles of his shoes! It worked!)
8. Since your cat is probably in survival mode it may not respond to your normal cues of name calling, shaking treats, etc., but try them anyway.
9. Leave smelly food out at night. If it's gone in the morning consider borrowing a humane trap from a rescue organization, or contact me.
- 10- Use social media to let people know your cat is missing. Post to my FACEBOOK timeline - Frank Vaccaro. I can repost to major rescue groups and pages in your area, notifying thousands of animal lovers of your situation. You'll need to make a friend request for tagging purposes, and then you'll be part of every conversation about your missing cat! [Please note that I'm likely to post to pages of nearby animal hospitals and

shelters. My posts to these are NOT official notices. You still should visit them personally and report your missing cat.]

11- When you go door-to-door with your flyers, talk to your neighbors as much as possible. Ask if they know who in the neighborhood feeds strays and feral cats. Focus your search at those houses. Give a flyer to your mail carrier and trash collector, ask them to keep a look out.

12- If you learn that there is a feral colony nearby, leave one if your flyers there for the caretaker to see. Please do not disturb the feeding stations or shelters!

13- Contact your local animal control officer. Even if they only take care of dogs, they will likely take the information and keep it in case anyone calls them with a found cat. Contact local vet offices and leave flyers there. Go to local animal shelters to see if your cat is there since they probably will not be able to tell you over the phone. Be sure to ask to see "Clinic" animals and animals that have just recently been brought into the shelter. If your cat is injured or recently brought in and you do not ask to see them you might not be invited to look. Often this room is referred to as the "Impound Room," ask to see cats in there. Visit every 2-3 days since they must by law hold any stray cat for 5 days before they offer it for adoption.

14. Search social media. Here is a link to my search resource page. It includes resources in Genesee County:  
<https://m.facebook.com/Cat-Dog-Search-Resources-Rochester-NY-Area-175912572786204/>

15- Please understand that finding your lost cat might be either difficult or easy. Many cats come back on their own after a day or two or a week or two. Some are found after many weeks or months. Some unfortunately are never found.

16- Be persistent, patient, and hopeful. Do what you can and if you are a person who prays, pray! Otherwise send hopeful thoughts its way... Hoping for a prompt reunion!

Here is an additional resource to help understand lost cat behavior:

<http://www.maddiesfund.org/what-you-dont-know-about-lost-pets-can-hurt-them.htm>

~Jennifer Everett, Contributor

~Frank Vaccaro

Missing Cats Rochester New York

Found Stray Cats Rochester NY

Monroe County New York Lost and Found Pets

Orleans County NY Lost and Found Pets

Finger Lakes Cats Lost and Found

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