

# SEARCH

your house & yard thoroughly

search a minimum of **5 HOMES** from yours in **ALL** directions.



94% of all indoor cats are found within this range. Whereas indoor/outdoor cats (which are not permitted in Richardson) have a larger roam radius of 17 houses.

Unlike dogs, cats don't run and wander – their instinct is to hide and stay quiet, no matter how much they might normally respond to you calling their name. Most cats have a 7-12 day “threshold” period where they remain hidden and will not come out for food, water, or their owners. During this period, they will not move, eat, or meow, making it more difficult to find them.



## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

**“my cat is old and must've gone off to die” –**

Cats don't go off with the intent to die alone and cold. When they don't feel good, they want comfort and warmth (you!). They want peace and quiet so they can rest where they are safe. Unlike humans, cats don't anticipate or know about death as we do, so they are not fearing or preparing for what might happen.

**“a coyote probably got the cat” –**

Coyotes are opportunistic eaters and do not typically go after cats. A very small portion of coyote's diets consist of cats. They tend to go after “easy” meals, like rodents, rabbits, fruit, and scavenging for meals.

**“they must've been hit by a car” –**

Unfortunately, this is something that can happen. However, when a deceased cat is seen by a citizen, it is reported to Animal Services and an Officer picks up the remains. We scan all remains for microchips. We will hold the body for 5-10 days. If you are worried this may have happened to your cat, call the shelter and ask to check their deceased intakes to see if anything matching your cat has been picked up.



## WHEN YOU FIND YOUR CAT

Share your happy news with neighbors and friends  
Take down posters. Notify our shelter so we can remove your lost post

If your cat isn't already chipped, we are pleased to offer microchipping for \$15 at our shelter during business hours – no appointment needed.

# LOST CAT?



Important Information if  
Your Cat is Missing



# MICROCHIPPED?

Call the chip company your cat is registered with to make sure the information is correct and to flag them as “missing”.

Not sure which company your cat's chip is with?

*If you know the chip number:*

➤ go to [www.microchiplookup.com](http://www.microchiplookup.com), type it in, and call the company that results

*If you don't know the chip number:*

➤ call your vet to see if they have it on record or the shelter/rescue you got your cat from



# TRAPPING 101

Rent or purchase a live animal trap - you can look into getting one from your local shelter, Home Depot, Lowes, or Tractor Supply.

Place it in a secluded location, like behind your bushes. Bait the trap daily with water & a fresh can of tuna. Ask your neighbors to pick up any food they may be leaving out – we want to get your cat hungry enough to enter the trap. The hungrier he gets, the better the chances of a successful trapping! Try covering the trap with a sheet or towel to make it appear more safe, enclosed, and den-like.

You will likely trap some wildlife, but don't give up.

# STRATEGIES

## Start in the home

Cats are great at getting trapped in their own house, so check every nook and cranny - don't feel silly even checking the kids' sock drawer! Search at your cat's level. Crawl and check in cabinets, air ducts, the hollow under reclining chairs, behind books in a bookcase, cupboards, you name it.

Since cats can fit into the smallest of spaces, leave no stone unturned!

## Move outside

Once you are confident you've checked the inside areas, check around bushes, cars, decks, gardening sheds, trees, and equipment.

Search using a flashlight as your cat's eyes will shine, particularly at night. Unless your cat was chased, he's very likely close, but in a dark concealed place, like storm drains, pipes, dumpsters, culverts, or bushes.

They usually only start to wander from hiding to look for food after about 2-3 days. When they are finally confident to venture out, it is generally at night.

Place your cat's used litterbox and unwashed bedding in the garage and crack the door – those familiar scents will help them know which house is “theirs”.

Leave a window open so that he may find his way in.



# check the shelter

Visit our website at [cor.net/departments/animal-services](http://cor.net/departments/animal-services) and click on “Lost or Found Animals”. From there, you can post a lost report instantly that will stay up for 2 weeks and allow Officers to keep an eye out as stray animals are picked up.

Check this website every day under “found cats” and “found – now at the shelter” to see what's been reported and to keep an eye on the new arrivals.

It is important to physically go into the shelter – simply calling is not enough. Your pet may not be listed with the front desk when you call or the description in the computer may not match how you describe your pet. Only you can positively identify your cat.

# reach out for help from others

Utilize media sites, like [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com), to use their pet forums for your area, such as the “Richardson, TX - Lost and Found Pets” group.

Post on your community app, [Nextdoor](https://www.nextdoor.com), and ask your neighbors to keep an eye out – make sure to attach a picture.

Make a report with [PawBoost.com](https://www.pawboost.com), and it will distribute the posting to local shelters, vet clinics, and social media sites.