



Ferguson Pet Resources

Lost & Found

There are several websites dedicated to lost and found pets, such as www.stllostpets.org and www.pawboost.com/find-lost-pet. On Facebook, post on “Florissant Hazelwood Spanish Lake Animal Lost and Found” page. It’s also beneficial to post in neighborhood groups such as [NextDoor](http://www.nextdoor.com) at www.nextdoor.com and neighborhood Facebook groups.

Lost a Pet

Important tips if you lose your pet:

- Contact the local police department.
- Post on social media; lost pet pages on Facebook and [NextDoor](http://www.nextdoor.com) app. Include your phone number, a picture or description of your pet, and where the pet was last seen.
- Go to area shelters (St. Louis County Animal Control, Humane Society, APA) and look for the animal. While you’re there, fill out a lost pet report and drop off a flier of the pet. And keep checking back! You really should go into the shelter since many animals’ descriptions vary from person to person.
- If your pet has a microchip, contact the agency that put the chip in. This could be your vet’s office or the place you adopted the animal from. Contact the company the chip was from. This could be AVID, Home Again, or several others.
- Make fliers and put up in the area where the pet was lost; include a picture of your pet. Use bright colored paper to draw attention and place in plastic sheet protectors to waterproof fliers.
- Place your pets’ items on your porch; litter box, pet food, pet bed, water, an item that has your scent.

Found a Pet

Important tips if you find a pet:

- If you find a lost pet, try to secure the pet if you can do so safely.
- Post fliers in the area. Use bright colored paper and use sheet protectors to waterproof it.
- Take the animal to a veterinarian’s office to have the pet scanned for a microchip.
- Contact the local police department.
- Post on social media; Facebook lost pet pages and Next Door

Microchip and ID Tag on Pet Collar

The statistics indicate that missing pets rarely make it home if they do not have a current ID tag and/or collar with your phone number, and a Microchip implant. Most veterinary clinics implant at reasonable rates. A last resort for temporary identification is to use duct tape, wrapped around the pet’s collar with your phone number written using a black permanent marker. Permanent pet ID tags can be made at PetSmart, Petco or Amazon.

The Importance of Microchipping your Pet

The American Humane Association estimates over 10 million dogs and cats are lost or stolen in the U.S. every year. **One in three pets will become lost at some point during their lifetime.**

A study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, including 53 animal shelters across the U.S., confirmed the high rate of return of microchipped dogs and cats to their families, and the importance of microchip registration. From the study:

- Only about 22 percent of lost dogs that entered the animal shelters were reunited with their families. However, the return-to-owner rate for microchipped dogs was over 52 percent (a 238 percent increase).
- Less than 2 percent of lost cats that entered the animal shelters were reunited with their families. The return-to-owner rate for microchipped cats was dramatically higher at over 38 percent (more than 2000 percent better).
- Only 58 percent of the microchipped animals’ microchips had been registered in a database with their pet parent’s contact information.

Ferguson Leash Law

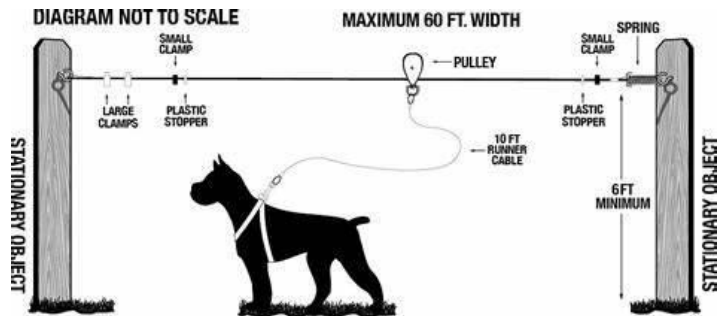
The leash law requires all pets to be confined to their own property or under supervision by a responsible adult. You must have control of your pet at all times. This means if you go inside, your pet goes too. Please be courteous to others and restrain your pet when people are walking their pets past your home. Both people and pets can be intimidated by the approach of another animal.

Keeping Dogs Contained

If you have a dog that jumps your fence, put up fence extenders. This is a cheap and easy way to keep your dog enclosed. All you need can be found at Home Depot; ½" x 3' rebar (HD will bend at 45 Degree angle), plastic zip ties, chicken wire. Weave half of the rebar through the fence at each 10' fence section. Weave chicken wire through extended rebar and attach with plastic zip ties.



If you don't have a fence, a dog trolley-system is best. All You need are 2 trees, or stationary posts. The kit can be ordered on Chewy.com or Amazon. Easy to install.



Barking Dogs

Barking dogs can be considered a nuisance at any time of day if it is habitual and reoccurring. The primary reason that dogs bark non-stop is that they are bored or lonely. It is good neighbor policy to monitor your dog's barking and bring it inside if it is barking for more than 10 minutes. If you are going to leave the house, don't leave your pet outside as there will not be any way to monitor their behavior. It is considered a peace disturbance if a dog is barking after 10:00p.m.

Spay & Neuter and Vaccination Clinics

Spay and neuter! It can extend the life of your pet and keep pet overpopulation down, which is the cause of thousands of unnecessary euthanasias in the St. Louis area. Below are some spay and neuter resources:

- Ferguson Animal Hospital 314.524.0707 fergusonanimal.com
- Carol House Quick Fix 314.771.7387 carolhousepetclinic.org
- Operation SPOT 314.909.8387 opspot.org
- BARC 314.435.1819 or 314.771.7387
- Humane Society 314.951-1590 or 314.647.8800 hsmo.org

What to do if you see an abused or neglected animal?

Take videos and pictures if possible. Contact: HSMO Cruelty Task Force: 314.647.4400/St. Louis County AC 314.657.1500/Local Authorities

Pets and Hot Weather

During hot summer months, it is important to remember to keep your pet healthy in the heat. Pets can suffer from heat exhaustion, stroke, and death just like people.



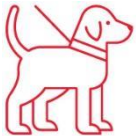
Never leave your pet in a parked car.

Don't leave your pet in the car, even on mild days. 65 degrees or above is too hot. Even with the windows cracked, the inside of the car can reach dangerous temperatures in minutes.



Provide fresh water.

Pets can become dehydrated quickly, refill your pet's water bowl with cool fresh water more often than usual on hot days.



Limit exercise during peak hot hours.

Take your pet on walks or exercise during the cooler hours like early morning or evening. Keep paws away from hot pavement. If it's too hot for your bare feet, it's too hot for theirs.



Always provide shade if your dog is outside.

If you must keep your dog outside, provide access to shade. Remember, shaded spots change throughout the day so be sure shade is accessible at all times of the day.

Cold Weather Tips



Please keep your dogs and cats inside when temperatures are below 32 degrees, especially dogs with short fur. Dogs with short coats such as greyhounds or pit bulls are even more sensitive to the cold.

Keep your community cats warm by providing cat igloos packed with fresh straw.

If your pet is outside during cold weather:

- Remember that staying warm requires extra calories. Outdoor animals typically need more food in the winter, so feed them accordingly when the temperature drops. Talk to your veterinarian for advice on proper diet.
- It is the law to keep fresh, non-frozen water accessible 24/7. If the bowl is not heated, you may need to refresh it more often as it freezes in cold weather. It is best to get a heated water bowl for our extreme temperatures.
- Proper housing is the law. Be sure that an insulated dog house packed with dry straw is provided. Be sure the entrance is facing against the wind.
- Salt and deicers: Many pets like to go outside to romp and stomp in the snow, but many people use powerful salt and chemicals on their sidewalks to combat ice buildup. Thoroughly clean your pet's paws, legs and abdomen after they have been outside, to prevent ingestion of toxic substances and to prevent their pads from becoming dry and irritated. Signs of toxic ingestion include excessive drooling, vomiting and depression.

Use nontoxic antifreeze. Antifreeze is great tasting to pets, but even a very small amount ingested can be deadly.

FACT: Dogs are Pack Animals by Nature

Indoor dogs make a far better protective guardian when they live inside. When a dog lives inside with their family, the family becomes their pack, they bond with the family and will protect that family instinctively. Dogs left outside alone can become potentially aggressive due to under socialization and can become a public safety issue. Keeping a dog on a chain can become a miserable situation for the dog quickly and causes severe frustration for that dog and far too often, the dog may jump off of a deck or over a fence and can end up hanging themselves. Instead, bring them inside, find a fear free trainer, and provide mental and physical exercise for your buddy daily. This will help both of you.

IF you will not bring your dog inside, proper housing is required by law. The dog house must be insulated and elevated off of the ground, and have 4 sides. Be sure that the house is placed in the shade during the summer and protected by cold winds in the winter. Pack with straw (and never hay, as hay will mold and get wet quickly).

But give it a try and bring FIDO inside. They will certainly thank-you for it. Dogs don't ask for much but give their human so much back in return, and are usually content just laying by your feet. It has also been medically proven that loving a dog will lower your blood pressure. Having an inside dog is a WIN WIN for all.

Hire a “Fear Free” Trainer www.fearfreepets.com or sign up at your local Petco or Petsmart

What To Do with an Outdoor Cat

We want to offer information so we can keep the outdoor cat population in Ferguson manageable. There are 3 types of outdoor cats:



THE LEFT EAR TIP
identifies a community
cat that has been fixed
and vaccinated!

1. Owned, outdoor cats have a home and typically go there every night. Their coat should be clean and well kept. They typically have a collar, are friendly and will approach you. Confirm ownership and spay/neuter status. It's best that the cat stays inside so they don't mate, get lost or hurt.

2. A stray cat is one that is lost or abandoned. They normally have unkept or grungy coats and are thinner since they aren't used to hunting for themselves. They may be friendly or scared/hide but may look directly into your eyes and slowly blink. These cats need your help the most. Please do not take to a shelter that euthanizes animals. Set up a

feeding station. Secure the cat, if possible (basement, bathroom, spare room), check for a microchip, help find their people, or help them get into a foster-based rescue. Hang flyers, post on social media, contact animal control with the description of the cat to see if anyone has reported them missing, talk with neighbors.

3. Feral cats, also called “community cats”, are used to being on their own and better able to groom themselves. They will not show themselves often and will run if approached. They are unsocialized to people, and therefore unadoptable. They may have a left ear tip cut off to show they have been spayed/neutered. If they have a left ear tip, leave them where they are. They live full, healthy lives with their colonies in their outdoor homes. You may want to confirm they are being fed, and who the feeder is.

If you see a stray or feral cat and they do not have an ear tip, or if they appear intact, they need to be spayed/neutered ASAP, so you don't end up with more cats! Unaltered cats that are fed reproduce quickly! It takes the entire community's involvement to control the cat population.

For information about spay/neuter programs, also called trap, neuter, return (TNR) for community cats, please contact St. Louis Feral Cat Outreach