

# From LOST to FOUND

*Tips for getting your Katy  
pet home safely*



**By Connie Plancy and Katrina Katsarelis**

The Townsend family of Katy was devastated when their Chihuahua Buddy slipped under the fence of their new home's backyard and disappeared. Buddy was not neutered and had no ID tags or microchip. The family searched the neighborhood, distributed posters with Buddy's photo, visited the Houston SPCA and Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP), and filed lost pet reports everywhere they could. After an exhaustive search, they were just about ready to give up, when they received a phone call from Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP). A volunteer had seen Buddy's photo on the HSPCA "Lost Pets" website and matched it to a stray dog recently turned in to CAP. The Townsends rushed down to the shelter where they were reunited with their beloved Buddy.

### PREVENTING LOST PETS

There are several steps families can take to prevent your dog from getting lost forever.

**ID Tags and Collar** – If your vet does not issue tags, you can get them custom made inexpensively at PetSmart or order them online.

**A Microchip is a Must** – Collars come loose and tags get corroded. A microchip, however, is under the skin and is the first thing vets, shelters, and agencies check for to return your pet to you. Most vets charge about \$40 for this invaluable service.

**Spay/Neuter** – Low-cost spay and neuter services are available through an organization called Greater Good located at 11909 Katy Fwy. Visit [mygreatergoodvet.com](http://mygreatergoodvet.com) for more info.

**Exercise Your Dog** – Pets who are tended to and well exercised are not as likely to run. Make sure your pet is getting the attention he or she deserves. KM

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## IF YOUR PET IS LOST

Act quickly and follow these tips.



**POST SIGNS** -Include a large photo of your pet and a phone number you answer.

**NOTIFY EVERYONE** - Call vets' offices, fill out lost pet forms, and ask if you can post signs in their offices. Ask neighbors and kids playing in the area if they've seen your pet.

**CONTACT AGENCIES** – Contact shelters and animal control agencies, fill out a report, and leave them a photo of your pet. (See below.)

**RESEARCH CONSTANTLY** - Go online and review any 'FOUND' posting at various agencies below and see if you can post a photo in their Lost Pets sections. Visit shelters often to see if they recovered your pet. Check Craigslist and other possible classifieds for found pet notices.

## WHO TO CALL

If you lose or find a pet, contact these organizations immediately.

**Citizens for Animal Protection**, 281-497-0591  
[cap4pets.org](http://cap4pets.org)

**Houston SPCA**, 713-869-7722  
[houstonspca.org](http://houstonspca.org)

**Houston Humane Society**, 713-433-6421  
[houstonspcasociety.org](http://houstonspcasociety.org)

**Harris County Animal Control**, 281-999-3191  
[www.CountyPets.com](http://www.CountyPets.com)

Note: Some agencies are known for euthanizing quickly so it's important to act fast and check back often.