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HAVE YOU LOST YOUR CAT?

It can be very distressing when your cat does not come home when you would normally expect. We recommend taking the following steps on our checklist below:

1. Do a thorough search first. Check all small spaces in your home - everywhere from cosy cupboards and under beds, to garden sheds, garages and outbuildings and up trees. You will be surprised how many cats are believed to have gone missing, only for them to be found tucked away somewhere nearby, or in your home. Cats can easily become overwhelmed, frightened, or may have just discovered the perfect hideaway!

Remember that an unneutered tom cat may wander several kilometres away from home in search of a female to mate with. You should also approach anyone whose garden backs onto your own, providing a larger roaming territory area for your cat and wider area for you to search.

- 2. Ask all of your neighbours. They should check their properties, sheds and garages too. Go out late at night when all is quiet and call and listen for your cat. Give them time to recognise and respond to your voice before you move to a new location.
- 3. Speak with the company that your cat's microchip is supplied by, ie. Petlog on: 01296 737 600 or Identibase on: 0330 912 8077 to register your cat as missing and to check that your details are up to date. They may also be able to support you with posters etc dependent on the type of account you hold with them. You may also be able to contact them online using your login details.
- 4. Speak to local charities to ensure they are aware of your cat's description in case they turn up in their care. You can use Catchat.org to locate any near to you.
- 5. Contact all the local vet practices in the area in case your cat turns up injured or is handed in by a worried member of the public.
- 6. Make and put up posters with your cat's photo and description around the local area.
- 7. Post a description and photo on your Facebook page, as well as any local community groups and platforms such as Nextdoor. You can also contact Surrey Missing Pet Support CIC who may also be able to provide support with finding your cat: 07542 778190.

Please ensure that your cat is neutered and microchipped to prevent them straying too far from home and potentially getting into dangerous situations near busier roads. There is also a much more likely chance that you will be reunited with your cat again in the future if your cat is microchipped. There are plenty of schemes available offering low-cost neutering and microchipping and we recommend speaking with your local charity who will offer advice. Microchipping your cat is compulsory from 10 June 2024.

Have You Lost Your Cat? - 24.11.23