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FREE REOURCES



DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND YOUR PET AFTER A DISASTER?

Reuniting Lost Parrots With Their Owners
When Hurricane Katrina began making its way toward New Orleans, Donna Powell promised to take care of her friend's



birds at her home 80 miles north of the city. Oddly enough, Powell had just created 911 Parrot Alert, a service to help reunite people with their lost birds. She believed her home would be the perfect place to serve as a temporary shelter for birds. What started out as a few birds hanging out at her home turned into a full-fledged bird-rescue organization. By the end of August 2005, Powell's home became the busiest emergency parrot-rescue operation in history. Many people volunteered to help Powell, whose house was filled with donated bird food and cages. Many owners were able to reunite with their birds thanks to Powell's hospitality.

Three Things You Can Do

After a disaster like a hurricane, wildfire, tornado, or flood, families often become separated from their pets. This can be a very traumatic time for both the family and the pet. In this edition of **The Red Guide to Recovery Newsletter**, we wanted to share a few basic tips that can help people be reunited with their pets.

1. Conduct A Thorough Search

The first thing you will want to do is contact your local Animal Care and Control to see if they have your pet. If they don't, you should immediately start going door-to-door and talk to your neighbors. Leave your name, address and phone number plus a complete description of your pet. Make it easy for people to contact you if they see or find your pet. Then get friends and family members to canvass the neighborhood and surrounding areas to see if your pet can be found.



2. Visit Shelters

Visit your local animal shelter daily. It is important that you go in person, because only you can identify your pet. Visit all the private shelters in your area and neighboring communities as well. Also, there are a number of rescue organizations which publish current lists and photos of found pets on the internet.

3. Make Posters and Create an Ad

Make a poster with a recent picture of your pet to alert people to be on the lookout. Make small tear-offs, if someone sees your pet, they can easily tear off the tab and call. Provide general information but avoid putting too much detail about your pet on the poster. There are con-artists who may use this information to claim they have your pet and try to scam you. Here is an example of what a lost pet poster might look like at right.



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Now is the time to get prepared and learn what recovery entails. Effective preparedness must include a recovery plan that plots out the steps you and your family will need to take immediately after a disaster. The Red Guide to Recovery provides the pertinent details you need to know.

Watch Out For Pet Scams



Someone Calls About Your Pet When a pet is lost, it is easy to become distraught. The desire to be re-united with the pet can make you vulnerable to unethical people who may try to take advantage of you and the situation. If someone calls and states that they have your pet, try to get a positive identification on your pet from the caller. Have specific details in mind that only you would know, that are not mentioned on your ads or posters. Think of a special question that only someone with your pet will be able to answer.



"The Guide is customized to our specific area and was developed to provide a tool that fire companies can distribute to residents who have experienced property loss or damage."

— Chief Augie Ghio, Fire Chief San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District, Past President of The San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association

Common Pet Scams

THE SHIPPING OR AIRLINE TICKET SCAM

THE FISH AND SWITCH

YOU PAY FIRST SCAM

THE TRUCKER SCAM

Read all about these all too common scams at our website:

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QUICK LINKS

[Click here](#) for more resource links for finding lost pets and rescue information.

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