

NACA Lost Pet Prevention Checklist

- Identification!
 - Make sure your pet has a collar with updated tags.
 - Make sure your pet is microchipped. A microchip means he *always* has ID.
- License your pet! Oftentimes required, this identification can quickly reunite you with your lost pet.
- Spay and Neuter! Pets tend to wander more often when they are not altered
- Recall and Training! Pets with good recall can be called back before they run too far and get lost.
- Be careful in and around the car! During transit pets may become lost when they bolt from a vehicle. Make sure pets in vehicles are contained in carriers or are wearing seat belts, so that you can control their entry and exit.
- Keep screens and fences in good condition and repair when damaged.
- Train your family. Many pets escape because a child (or their friend) left the door open or dropped the leash on a walk.
- Take extra precautions during changes in routine. Many pets go missing when something's different—have plans in place to ensure their safety during:
 - Construction - Take extra precautions to make sure visitors are not leaving doors open, and consider keeping pets in enclosed rooms while there's major activity going on in your house
 - Vacations—many pets escape pet sitters and dog walkers. Make sure your pet sitter or dog walker understand your pet's routines and habits.
- Extreme weather and loud noises such as fireworks may make pets anxious, and more prone to run through open doors.
- Always keep a recent picture of your pet on your phone, so you can show it to people quickly if your pet does stray.
- Know the first steps to take, so you can act fast if your pet does stray such as:
 - Know your local shelters contact information.
 - Ask neighbors and use social media, often times pets are found less than a mile from where they live.