WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CAT ESCAPES

1. Begin Searching Right Away
- Don't wait and hope that your cat will come back. Get help from friends and take time off work.
- Make sure s/he is not in the house. Cats can hide in remarkable places!
- Search after dark and at dawn—11 pm to 2 am and just before sunrise is prime time for lost cats.
- Use daylight hours for checking likely hiding spots, postering, and talking to neighbours.

2. Help Your Kitty Stay Nearby
- Put a dish of water and your cat's favourite food near the window or door they escaped from.
- If possible, leave a window or door open for the cat to get back in. Other pets can be kept in a closed room. If you aren't sure your cat actually escaped, DON'T leave windows or doors open.
- If you cannot leave the door/window open, sprinkle used kitty litter on the ground leading to the door/window or safe hiding spot and leave some of your unwashed clothing at the point of entry.

3. Search Close to Home
- Cats often break out but then get scared and hide. They generally avoid wide open spaces. Most often they are found very close to home, so stay tight to your block, across the street, and across the lane. After 24 hours, expand your search to a 4-5 block radius.
- Walk around the neighbourhood, shaking treats, and gently calling the kitty's name.

4. Check Every Nook and Cranny
- Look in crawl spaces, garages, sheds, under decks and balconies, and any sheltered spot a cat can get into (i.e. anywhere that has a space 3-4" high). Take note of likely hiding places and return to them repeatedly.
- Ask your neighbours for permission to look in their yards. Ask them to open their garages or sheds. Sometimes cats run in when the door is open, and then people unknowingly lock the door with the cat inside.

5. Poster the Neighbourhood
- Get bright posters printed with a colour photo of your cat, cat's name, brief identifying description, where and when lost (date and cross streets), and a phone number where you can be reached 24/7.
- Put them in plastic sleeves to protect them from weather and post at the front of your house and the corners of every block within a 2 block radius. After 24 hours, expand your posters to a 5 block radius.

6. Use All of Your Resources
- Notify the veterinary clinic where your cat was tattooed or microchipped (ensure contact info is up to date).
- Contact the BC SPCA (604-574-1711) and the Surrey Animal Resource Centre (604-574-6622) and send them a poster of your missing cat. Phone them every day. You can also search for your missing cat online in the BC SPCA database at http://bcspcapets.shelterbuddy.com.
- Post online—if someone finds your kitty, this is likely where they will start looking for its owner:
  1. **Missing Pets in BC (Petsearchers Canada)**: Email missingpetsinbc@gmail.com to post on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MissingPetsInBC). You can also hire their bloodhound service to track your missing cat: http://www.petsearcherscanada.com/lost-cat-searches.
  2. **PawBoost Lost & Found Pets**: Fill out form at www.pawboost.com/fb/surrey_bc to post on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Surrey-BC-Lost-Dogs-Cats-Pets-518359721886899)
  3. **Helping Lost Pets**: Fill out form at www.helpinglostpets.com/PET to post on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LostPetsBC).
  4. **Craigslist Lost & Found**: https://vancouver.craigslist.ca/search/laf & https://abbotsford.craigslist.ca/search/laf.
  5. **Kijiji Lost & Found Pets**: https://www.kijiji.ca/b-lost-and-found-pets/delta-surrey-langley/c791l1700285.

7. Trap a Scared Cat
Sometimes indoor cats get quite panicked once they are outside. Even the most friendly cat will be wary after a few days outdoors and may not respond to you at all. Silence keeps it safe. A humane trap baited with tuna is the quickest, easiest, and safest way to capture it. Once set, stay close by, and monitor the trap at least every 2 hours. A cat or wild animal will be distressed in a trap and can get dehydrated quickly. It is not safe to leave them in a trap for too long, especially when it is very hot or cold.