



## Lost Pet Reunification Lost Pet Verification in the Field

### Overview

Field Services Officers can be a critical touchpoint for reuniting lost pets with their owners through in-field lost pet verification practices. In addition to [general lost pet reunification efforts](#), allowing officers to complete pet owner verification, confirming that a person is the owner of a found pet, while completing field tasks can help expedite the lost pet reunification process and prevent pets from having to enter the shelter. Verification in the field may occur if a pet has been positively identified and is still housed in the field services vehicle or even if a person in the field has reason to believe their pet is currently housed in the shelter.

Verification processes should be easy to understand and as low-barrier as possible. Consider the following examples:

- Match info found on pet ID tags/collars
- Potential owner has photos of the pet or of them with the pet
- Microchip confirmation
- Veterinary or clinic records match the description of the pet
- Response check from the pet (body language signs that the pet recognizes their owner)

If your state or local ordinances require that all loose pets be taken directly to the shelter or require extensive proof of ownership before returning a lost pet home, use this [Government Communications Guide](#) to advocate for lifting these restrictions.

### Supporting Evidence

#### [Lost Pet Reunification: Supporting Evidence](#)

This document contains a list of supporting evidence relevant to lost pet reunification interventions and support needs. Organizations may wish to use this information to guide programming aimed at increasing return-to-home rates and supporting the human-animal bond for lost pets. The following topics are included: **See the topics in bold text for supporting evidence that accompanies this resource.**

- **Microchip Benefits and Statistics**
- **Microchip Registration Needs**
- **Visual Pet Identification**
- **Found Pets Are Close to Home**
- Benefits of Posting Signs/Flyers
- Access to Care and Pet Support Needs
- **Field Services Support**
- Community Cats