

Missing cat – What to do

Tips for a successful reunion

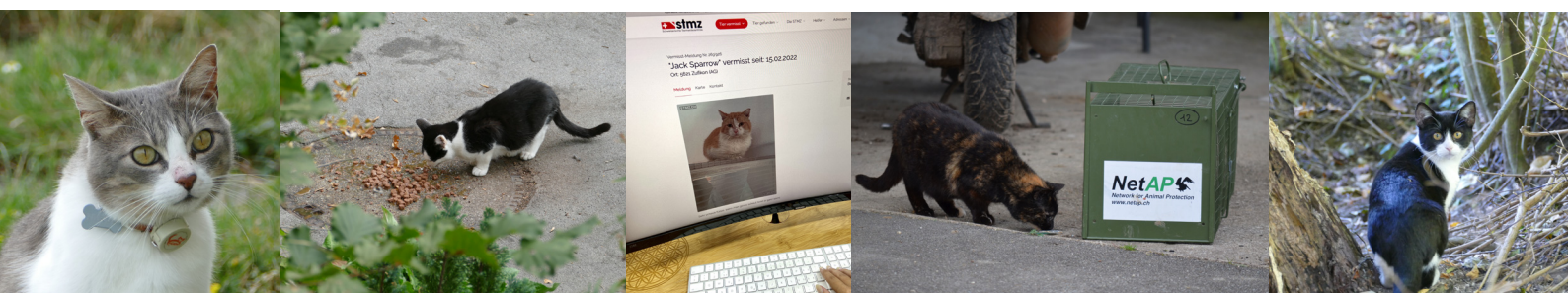


If your cat does not come home as usual, keep calm. Cats can run a little late sometimes. However, if it takes longer than usual, start looking for your cat. The following checklist will help you:

1. Search thoroughly throughout your **apartment, house** and in the **immediate vicinity**, also when it's dark and quiet, as this will make it easier for you to hear your cat or for your cat to hear you.
2. Inform your **neighbors** and ask them to check their **basements, garages, and sheds**.
3. Record a Missing Cat report with a photo of your cat at **Schweizerische Tiermeldezentrale STMZ**, www.stmz.ch (database for missing and found animals, available in German, French and Italian). Share the Missing Cat report on social media.
4. Print a **Missing Cat poster**, post it around the area and distribute it to the mailboxes in your neighborhood.
5. If your cat has a microchip, check whether the data recorded at **ANIS** (www.anis.ch) are still up to date and record your cat as missing on this site as well.
6. Send your Missing Cat poster to all **veterinary practices** in the wider area.
7. Inquire at the **police** and the **municipality** (incl. their animal body disposal facilities) whether somebody has reported seeing your cat.
8. Regularly check the **Found Cats section** at www.stmz.ch (Gefundene Katzen / Chats trouvés / Gatti ritrovati).
9. Find out about **additional search options**, such as search dogs.
10. For particularly shy cats, set up a **feeding station** with a **surveillance camera**. If your cat shows up, a **cat trap** can help secure the animal.
11. Don't give up and regularly renew your Missing Cat report! Some cats are only found again after a long time.

To be better prepared for this situation – which hopefully will never occur – we have the following tips for you.

- Always have **recent photos** of your cat ready and write down your cat's distinctive **identifying features**.
- **Microchip** your cat and **register** it with ANIS. Put a **safe breakaway collar** on your cat with a **name tag and phone number**. If found, this will help quickly assign the cat to you.
- Consider equipping your cat with a **transmitter**.
- Make sure you have photos, descriptions, microchip number, and the vaccination booklet **handy at all times**.
- Train your cats in **habits and routines**, such as regular mealtimes, and opt for a **distinctive sound** they can associate with this habit. This might be the ringing of a bell, the rustling of a snack bag, or a loud whistle before each meal. This can prove to be very helpful during a search for a missing cat.
- For further tips, read the **NetAP guide «Gefahren für Freigänger Katzen»** on dangers for outdoor cats..



Because every life matters!