

Ask The Professionals

If you have any questions these professionals can answer, please write to:

"Ask The Professionals"
c/o The Canadian Champion
191 Main Street E.
Milton, Ontario L9T 4N9
or Fax to: 878-4943



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On a too frequent basis, we receive telephone calls from distraught members of the public asking us what to do as their pet has gone missing. I would like to offer a few useful suggestions when faced with this dilemma.

Once pet owners have got over that awful initial shock and panic, we suggest that the best thing to do is to comb the local area, repeatedly calling the pet's name. Get help from family members, friends or neighbours. This is based on the fact that pets are often found within a few kilometers of home. It is a good idea to call house to house and ask neighbours to check their sheds or garages, and leave them your phone number so you can be contacted.

Whilst the search is going on, designate one person to remain at home. This is very important as the pet might decide to return home and have a snooze! The designated person should also contact all local Veterinary Hospitals and Humane Societies, and give them full details of the missing pet, including any identity tattoo or microchip number. You might consider contacting the Police, in case there may have been a road accident involving a pet.

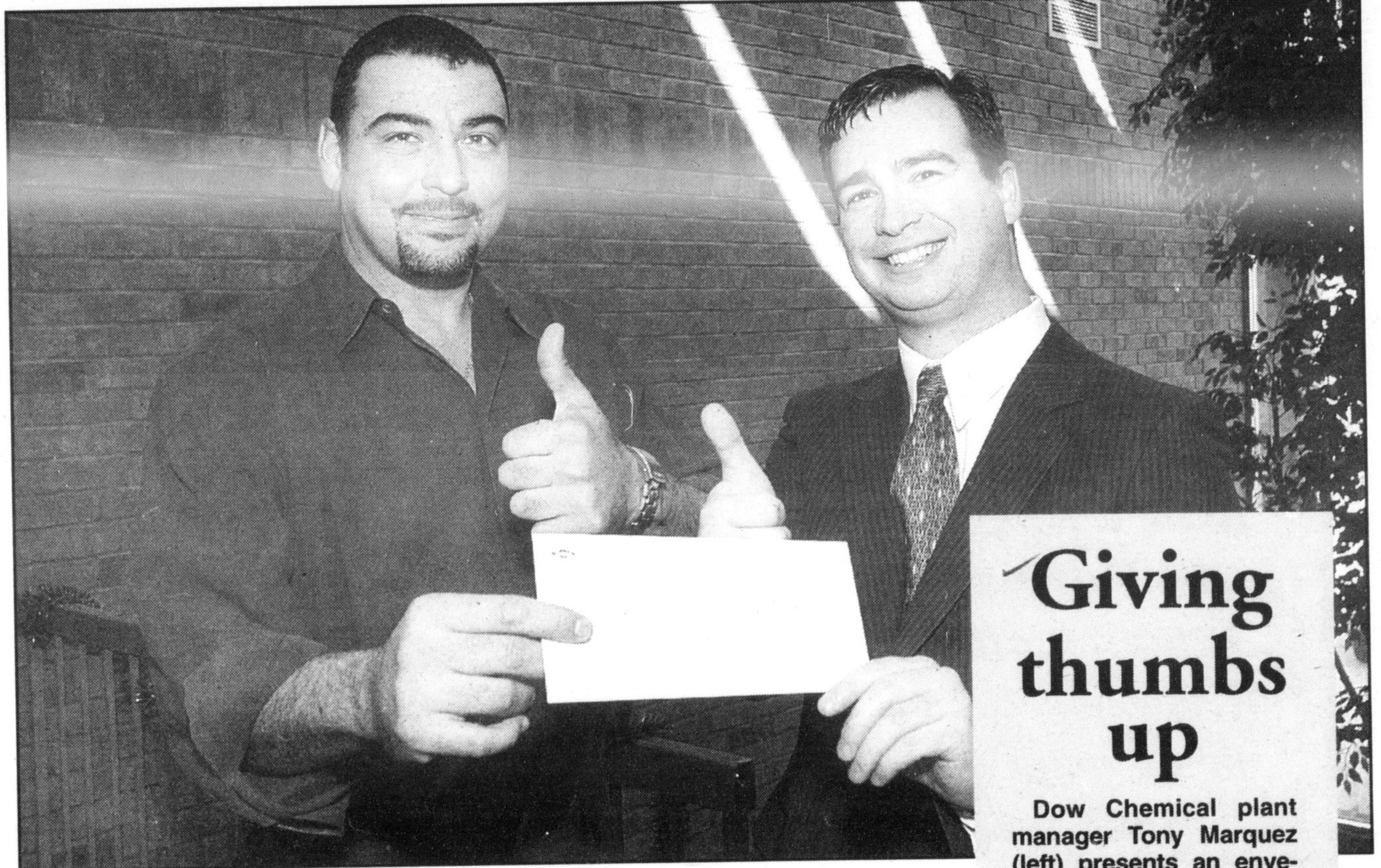
If initial actions fail to find the pet, other steps can be taken which include the distribution of brightly coloured posters offering a reward. Print the word REWARD in large letters. You should visit the animal shelters or humane societies every two days, and call them every day to check the "found pet register". Advertising in the local newspaper, or in an adjacent area newspaper, with or without a photo, may also prove successful. Some owners have also utilized a "mailing" inserted in the local paper.

As heartbreaking as all this searching can be, try not to give up hope. If you are lucky enough to get that telephone call telling you that your pet may have been found - remember, he or she may look different. They could be dirty, matted and may have suffered weight loss. They may also be in shock or may be injured.

If your pet is found, it is strongly advised that you have your veterinarian carry out a quick examination, as quickly as possible, just to make sure that all is well.

Sometime ago, I wrote an article for this column about MICROCHIPPING. This tiny chip is inserted, by a veterinarian, into the nape of the pet's neck. It is painless and permanent, and is a wonderful, simple way of making sure that your pet is identifiable. Each pet hospital, animal shelter and humane society will check every pet that is brought in, in the hope of finding a microchip, an in turn, reuniting pet with owner.

If you have any question about microchipping, please contact your veterinarian.



Giving thumbs up

Dow Chemical plant manager Tony Marquez (left) presents an envelope containing a \$5,000 cheque to United Way of Milton director Marc Dexter. The money was given as a corporate donation.

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Q: My daughter makes the /s/ sound with her tongue sticking out. It sounded cute when she was younger but now that she is six it has become more obvious. How do we correct it?

A: From what you have described, your daughter may have what is typically called a frontal lisp. A frontal lisp is produced when the tongue is placed between the teeth during the production of the /s/ sound. The /s/ sound is usually produced with the teeth together, lips in a smile position and the tongue tip placed behind the bottom teeth. Some suggestions that may be helpful are: 1) point out to your daughter how you make the /s/ sound; 2) use a mirror and practice making just the /s/ sound with teeth together; 3) after your daughter can make the /s/ sound alone, practice making the /s/ sound using vowel sounds; and 4) start working on words that start with /s/.

A Speech-Language Pathologist can help with the development of a program specifically geared for your daughter. Contact our Centre for more information.

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