



What To Do When Your Dog Goes Missing

The most important message is:

- **DO NOT** call the dog!
- **DO NOT** chase the dog!
- **DO NOT** walk around looking for the dog!
- If you see the dog: sit down, turn sideways, don't make eye contact, sit quietly or hum/sing softly.
- If the dog walks away, do not follow the dog.

Listed below are the basic steps for getting a lost dog back home. Not all steps will be needed for every lost dog, but in general:

- Put up flyers/posters in a one-mile radius around where the dog was lost within 24 hours of the dog getting away.
- Post about the missing dog on local social media (lost dog sites, Facebook, NextDoor, Ring) and encourage people to share the post.
- Call local shelters and Animal Control and notify them about the lost dog, and see if the dog has been turned in.
- Place a scent item from the dog (blanket the dog has slept on, collar, leash, harness, or another item with the dog's scent) outside your house. You should also set aside a scent item in case a tracker is needed later. The item should have only the lost dog's scent. Put the item in a non-scented bag.
- Set up a feeding station (preferably in front of a camera) close to where the dog was lost. Move the feeding station closer to sightings as appropriate.
- Keep a record of all sightings and make a map of the sighting locations. When you receive a call of a sighting, ask:
 - What was the exact location and time of the sighting?
 - What direction and speed was the dog traveling?
 - Did the dog look healthy?
 - Was it wearing a collar, harness, or dragging a leash?
 - If the sighting was near the caller's house, would they be open to you placing a trail camera with food for the dog near the sighting?
- You will likely get scam calls. Do not describe the dog to a caller and never give them a code they send you!
- Make sure the microchip info is current and notify the company the dog is missing.



FLYER TIPS

- Colorful to catch pedestrian and driver's attention!
- Minimal words: "Lost Dog, Do Not Chase/Follow/Engage. Call with info!"
- It is usually not recommended to put "Reward" on the flyer because it might make people chase the dog or actively search for the animal.
- Place flyers in plastic sleeves with the opening at the bottom. Tape the bottom closed.
- Use clear packing tape to put up the flyers. If you use colorful tape to hang flyers, make sure to not cover any of the phone number with the tape.
- It is illegal to post flyers on bus stop shelters, utility poles, and mailboxes.
- Put flyers on street signs, give to vet offices/animal shelters, ask for permission to post them at stores, coffee shops, etc.
- Print at home or try UPS Stores, Staples, Office Depot, or Fed Ex.



POSTERS

- Buy NEON poster board and cut it in half so you get two 14"x22" posters.
- Add a large photo and bold letters/numbers.
- Add strips of cardboard to the top and bottom on the back for added strength.
- Cover the entire poster with clear packing tape to protect it from the elements.
- Cut small slits through the cardboard on the top and bottom and then put zipties through the slits to hang.
- The square street signs like the one in the photo are great for hanging posters. Place the top ziptie through the circular punch-out so the poster won't slide down.

