



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.

