



STEPS TO TAKE IF YOU HAVE LOST YOUR DOG

When your pet strays from home, it can be a traumatic experience for both of you. Here are some tips that we hope will help you find your pet.

*If you adopted the pet from **Main Line Animal Rescue**, please contact us first at 610-933-0606 or 610-337-9225. We will send out volunteers who can start helping to look, will send out a facebook alert to our followers, as well as sending a direct email to our volunteers with the information. Because the volunteers are bonded with and know the animals well, they can help predict how they might react to a certain situation.*

Be wary of pet-recovery scams. When talking to a stranger who claims to have found your pet, ask him to describe the pet thoroughly before you offer any information. If he does not include the identifying characteristic you left out of the advertisements, he may not really have your pet. Be particularly wary of people who insist that you give or wire them money for the return of your pet.

Never meet a stranger alone in a private place to retrieve your pet.

Search Your Home and Alert Neighbors

As soon as you notice your pet is missing, talk to your family members or housemates and ask where they last saw your pet. Search your home carefully—under beds, in closets, dark places, small places, behind bulky furniture—in case your pet is hiding or sleeping somewhere. Shaking a food dish, treat jar or favorite toy will sometimes lure animals out of a hiding place. If you are sure your pet is not in/around the home, take a slow ride or walk around your neighborhood. Bring along a recent photo of your pet and ask neighbors if they've seen him or her. Check under porches and shrubs and ask neighbors to check in sheds and garages in case your pet was accidentally locked in. Cook up something smelly on your grill, bacon or liverwurst; something that might bring your pet home for dinner!

Please note, we do not suggest having large groups of people out searching and calling for your lost pet. This will only scare your pet and drive them out of the area. People wanting to help can drive around and call the owner with any sightings, but never chase the dog or call out to it if it is not your own dog.

Work the Phones

Calls should be made to the local animal control agencies, veterinary hospitals, shelters (both municipal and private) and rescue groups in your area. One of them may already have your pet. Contact your local police department and alert them and find out if there is a shelter that has the animal control contract for your township. Notify the police if you have reason to believe that your pet was stolen.

Check in with shelters daily by phone and physically visit in person with photos of your pet to distribute to shelter staff. Sometimes the person answering the phone is not aware of a pet that arrived when they were not at the desk. This is very important.

Provide these agencies with an accurate description and a recent photograph of your pet. Ask if you can email the information over to them. Include the following information to shelters or the police (*Be cautious about what information you share in social media. When describing your pet, leave out one identifying characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.* **Never meet anyone privately who tells you that they have found your pet**):

1. Address where the pet was last seen
2. When the pet was last seen
3. Owners name and phone number
4. Pet's name, breed, color, sex
5. Was the pet wearing a collar, were there tags on the collar? Please describe
6. Is the pet microchipped and is the information current on the registration
7. Is your pet on any medications and what is the name of your vet?
8. Is your pet shy? Will he/she come to a stranger? Ask that they not approach the dog, but rather contact name/number on flyer immediately.
9. Does your dog like other dogs? Will he be likely to approach another dog?
10. If you walk your dog, is there a typical path where you go where the pet might be?
11. Any particular phrases or commands that your pet knows?

Advertise

Post notices at grocery stores, community centers, veterinary offices, traffic intersections, pet supply stores and other locations. Also, place advertisements in newspapers and with radio stations. Include your pet's sex, age, weight, breed, color and any special markings. *When describing your pet, leave out one identifying characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.*

4. Try the Internet. These sites may be able to help you out:

- [Center for Lost Pets](#)
- [Craigslist](#)
- [Fido Finder](#)
- [Lost Dogs of America](#)
- [Lost Pet USA](#)
- [Missing Pet Partnership](#)
- [Fur Alert](#)
- Local facebook sites:

- Bring the Lost Pets of Montgomery County Pennsylvania
- BuxMont Lost & Found
- Chester and Montgomery County Pet Search
- Lost and Found Pets of Chester County
- Lost and Found Pets of Chester and Delaware County

Social Media Networks

Send an email about your lost pet to local friends, colleagues and family members and ask them to pass on the information to anyone they can. Then, be sure to share the news with your social media networks. Most communities have local “Lost Pet” Facebook pages (see above) where they will post information about missing pets. You can create your own Facebook page or digital card for your lost pet, and share it across your social networks—and ask friends and family to spread the word to their contacts. Please note on your Facebook post that you do not want people to post the location of any sightings on the Facebook feed. This information should be directly communicated to you, the owner. You do not want strangers rushing to that location and scaring your animal. In addition, you want to get this information as quickly as possible, so phone calls are best.

Create a “Lost Pet” Flyer

You’ll want to create a flyer that will stand out and get noticed by people who may have seen your pet. Repeated viewings of a consistent message are more likely to stick in people’s minds, so we recommend sticking with one design for your flyer. Some websites will make a flyer and fax to local vets and shelters. They will also do robo calls,

lostmydoggie.com

findtoto.com

FidoFinder.com

Pawboost.com

Start with a big, bold headline that people can read from a distance, like “LOST DOG” or “MISSING CAT.” Include a clearly printed, recent photo of your pet and list the breed, sex, coloring, age, weight, any distinguishing features, and when and where he or she was last seen. Provide your name and two phone numbers: yours and a friend or family member’s in case you cannot be reached.

Blanket the Neighborhood

Good places to post your flyers include dog parks and runs, pet supply stores and pet grooming shops and veterinary offices. Various commercial establishments like grocery and convenience stores, gas stations, Laundromats, bars, cafes and restaurants are other good high-traffic options.

Cover lampposts and trees near where you think your pet was lost, and around busy commercial and pedestrian sections of town. Put up flyers around schools or at kids’-eye level. Children can be more observant than adults, especially when it comes to animals.

What to do if you spot a lost animal

The first thing to do is call the owner if you have that information. Do not approach the animal or call out to it! It is best to sit on the ground with your back to the animal - no eye contact or calling the animal's name. It takes a dog that is scared about a half an hour to snap out of flight mode and recognize an owner. You can try throwing food in the direction of the animal and try to lure it closer so they can get a leash on it.

Don't Give Up!

This one is important! Remember that many lost animals have found their way back home. The more ways you try to locate your lost pet, the more likely you are to find him or her!