

LOST Pet Checklist

brought to you by IG: willworkforcatslv

This document works best when opened via Microsoft Word

- If you have a garage, crack it enough for your Pet to crawl under it, should your Pet find its way home.
- Put out stinky food, that appeals to your Pet, at the home's entry points (front door, back door, cracked garage, etc).
- Put out articles with familiar scents - used pillowcases, your Pet's bed(s), your Pet's blanket(s), litterbox contents, etc - at the home's entry points.
- Use motion-detecting cameras, when possible - i.e. [not an ad] the Petcube will pick up on & differentiate alerts for both human & animal activity then send a push notification to your phone so you can look at the activity in real time. Avoid motion-detecting systems that activate flood lights, as this will alarm your missing Pet should they trip it.

KEEP IN MIND that, while this is an emotional & stressful time, animals are perceptive to tension & may be too scared to come out of hiding if you are frantic. During any searches, use your every-day speaking voice to talk to them. To help to ensure you are not under any additional undue stress, make sure to rest, hydrate & eat - keeping your body fueled will help you maintain a healthy state of mind.

- Make fliers:
 - When possible, print in color &/or affix to neon cardstock
 - When possible, use a professional printer (i.e. Office Depot, UPS Store, FedEx, etc) since it's less work on their ink & printers than the typical home printer.
 - When possible, put the fliers inside protective sheet covers (max size 8.5x11) - if you put the fliers in with the opening at the *bottom* then use a small piece of tape to close it, the protective sheet will protect the flier from any rain or snow.
 - List the city & zip code/intersection where your Pet went missing
 - List the date & approximate time your Pet went missing
 - List whether a reward is being offered (but not how much)
 - Use 1-3 distinguishing pictures of your Pet
 - List your Pet's name
 - List your Pet's approximate age
 - List your Pet's gender & whether it's spayed or neutered

DO. NOT. GIVE. UP. There are countless stories of pets reunited with their owners MANY months after going on their walkabouts. There may come a time when you cannot do all of these things every day & that's to be expected. But set an alarm on your phone to dedicate time, once a week, to continuing the search.

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- List whether your Pet is microchipped &/or has a collar (& whether it's a break-away collar, in case your Pet is found without a collar or the collar is found by itself)
- List any distinguishing features of your Pet
- List what might motivate your Pet to come to a human who has found it
- Put who to contact & how to contact them on the flier
- Put something emotionally compelling to anyone who sees the flier

Report/post your Pet missing:

- to the microchip company where it is registered
- on Craigslist lost & found
- on Nextdoor lost & found (every day)
- to nokillnetwork.org
- to petharbor.com
- thru findingrover.com & use its facial recognition to search found pets that may be a match (every day)
- to pawboost.com

Check for your Pet:

- on Craigslist's lost & found (every day)
- on Craigslist's animals-for-sale (every day)
- on Nextdoor's lost & found (every day)
- on petharbor.com (every day)
- on sites like OfferUp (every day)

Contact *your* veterinarian to let them know your Pet is lost & ask to email or drop off a flier.

Contact the veterinarians in your zip code & the neighboring zip codes to let them know your Pet is lost & ask to email or drop off a flier.

Check with your local animal control/humane society/SPCA/municipal shelter [websites or by phone] to:

- find out where you need to report your Pet missing
- find out where you need to search for your Pet
- find out whether there is an online database that can be checked or if someone needs to physically visit any of those places

Share your flier with:

- friends
- family

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- co-workers
- your social media networks & with social media groups that post lost & found pets in your area - if you do not have social media, ask others to post it for you.
- neighbors/your HOA -
 - It is not uncommon for people to find an animal then take it in & not do anything further. They assume it was abandoned or don't know the resources to reunite the animal with its owner.
 - If you have neighbors with garages/sheds they keep cracked or opened, your Pet may have sought shelter there.
 - If your pet went missing during the workweek, know that some people may have to wait until the weekend to take it someplace to be scanned &/or to post that they've found your Pet.
- nearby/neighborhood parks & pools
- nearby churches
- nearby coffee shops
- nearby markets
- nearby construction sites
- nearby gas stations/convenience stores
- school crossing guards - out of respect for safety precautions instilled in children, it is not recommended that you approach any minors about your missing Pet, unless they know you.

Hang fliers - using heavy duty packing tape or duct tape, if possible - in the area where your Pet was last seen.

- Whether by phone, email, text or social media, ASK FOR HELP! Having a missing pet is emotionally daunting - there will be a rollercoaster of emotions from guilt, hope, defeat & optimism - so having even one person who can help you with reach outs &/or distributing fliers can help to relieve some of the emotional & mental burden. Thanks to technology, people who do not live near you are able to help to make calls, send faxes, send emails, make posts on social media, help report your missing Pet to the above-mentioned websites & help search found animals thru the above-mentioned websites.
- Do not set out without a plan or you will become discouraged quickly. Even though you may be under emotional distress, think methodically, based on how the area is laid out & adhere to traffic laws.
 - Consider taking your missing Pet's favorite treat or toy, while hanging fliers.
 - Go up one side of the street then down the other side.
 - When hanging on light poles, only post on poles where there is a sidewalk or possibly a bicycle path - then post facing where pedestrians or cyclists will see it.

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- For gated communities, hang on the inside of the exit gate, so cars waiting to exit will see the flier.
- For gated communities, post on the call box outside the gate or give to the guard.
- For gated communities, post on the pedestrian gate (where residents exit when not using their car, to go to school, on walks, etc).
- Post at school bus stops.
- Post at intersections.
- Keep additional fliers on hand in your car, in case you are someplace where it might be valuable to give a flier to someone.
- Whether on foot or by car, wear sunscreen, have on comfortable footwear & take water. If possible, also have a leash or carrier handy, in the event you find your Pet while you are hanging fliers.
- When it comes to posting on mailboxes, individual mailboxes are off-limits - even affixing a flier between the flag & box is illegal. When it comes to cluster mailboxes, there isn't much information about whether it's technically illegal or not to post missing/found pet fliers to the sides of them. For the most part, if the route's postal carrier finds their placement to be a violation or prohibiting mail delivery in any way, they will simply remove them.

Schedule searches during times when the area where your Pet went missing is quietest (before 6:30am, after 9:30pm or during weekdays when people are at school & work), so that your Pet can better hear you & so that you can better hear them.

- Indoor cats & even indoor/outdoor cats do not tend to travel far on their own & will typically hunker down within a square mile or less of where they went missing.
- Dogs - depending on their age, size & overall health - can travel up to 5 miles within the first 24 hours they are missing.
- Take a strong flashlight & your missing Pet's favorite treat or toy, while searching for them, & make sure you have a leash or carrier nearby, should you locate them.

Consider checking in with shelters in neighboring cities where people may commute to & from. If someone is on the way home & finds your Pet, they may take it home to that neighboring city, where they live, & turn it into a shelter there. (i.e. Las Vegas, NV <> Boulder City, NV or Las Vegas, NV <> Pahrump, NV)

Consider hiring a scent-tracking canine (& its handler) to search for your missing Pet. Make sure you have articles that have your missing Pet's scent, as they will be needed for the search.

Consider taking another pet out with you on searches or sitting outside with your other pet(s) - if they are not leash-trained, please make sure they are secured in a carrier.

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- Consider asking someone with a drone to survey the area.
- Consider contacting local rescues to set out humane traps where your Pet was last seen. Also consider offering to donate money, goods or your time, to entice them or as a token of thanks.

REMEMBER that, while you are desperate to have your Pet safely home, there are people who will prey on others' emotional distress. When someone contacts you about your missing Pet, ask for pictures & never meet them at their home alone. Take another adult with you &/or ask to meet at a very public location or at a nearby veterinarian's office.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN REUNITED WITH YOUR PET, if more than a few days passed & it was not being cared for by someone, schedule an appointment with your veterinarian as soon as possible for a check-up. If you have other pets in your home, it will be normal - especially with cats - for there to be a readjustment period, considering all the different smells that may be on your newly found Pet.

ONCE YOUR SEARCH HAS REACHED ITS CONCLUSION, remember to go back thru this list to update/remove all filings & to remove all fliers that have been hung.

A MESSAGE ABOUT SAFEGUARDING YOUR PETS: Spay, Neuter, Vaccinate, Microchip & Register your pets. While some pets may not like a collar (i.e. some cats), put forth your best effort to acclimate them to one with a tag or your contact information printed directly on it. Whether strictly indoors or indoor/outdoor, you can tell yourself all day long that losing a pet will not happen to you... but animals are sneaky, they're curious, they're fast & they can spook easily & sometimes we humans are complacent & distracted. It is also best practice to make sure that you have 1-3 updated & distinguishable pictures of your pets (eyes opened, full-body, special markings or coloring, etc).

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