



TIPS ON FINDING A LOST DOG

Normally, pets run away to answer sexual urges if they have not been neutered, in response to sudden and unexpected events that frighten them, out of curiosity if doors, windows or gates are left open, or if they are new to a home and are looking for their former surroundings.

How far they run is just a function of how far their legs will carry them. Big strong dogs, especially young ones, can run 5 miles or more. Small dogs may be able to go half a mile at most. Most dogs are recovered well within a two-mile circle of their home, especially because they normally will never run for an extended length in a straight line no matter how strong or fast they are.

If it is an outgoing dog, it will be looking for other dogs and for other humans who are friendly and likely to comfort, feed and shelter it. Neighbors' yards and public parks are spots it will like.

If it is a shy or older pet and not trusting of strangers, it will hide. Bushes and under cars are good spots.

Start looking for your dog as soon as you realise he/she is missing. The longer you wait, the harder it can be to find them. Don't wait for your dog to come back on its own or find its own way back using their 'homing instinct'. Your dog will probably try to find his way home but might not be successful. Could easily become disorientated, get scared or injured. Search the area immediately, leaving the description of your missing dog and your contact details with as many people as possible.

Ask your neighbours if they have seen your dog or maybe have taken him in. Knock on doors of houses around your block.

Walk around the area your dog went missing from with a lead, some treats and maybe your dog's favourite toy, blanket or teddy. The scents of all these things may help bring your lost dog back to you.

Check any empty house in your area. Your dog could be hiding there.

Call your vet, other local vets, your local animal warden, the nearest animal hospital, RSPCA, re-homing center, The Mayhew Animal Home, Battersea Cats and Dogs, Woodgreen Animal Shelter, your local council, animal pounds in your area. Contact your microchip company, Petlog, Missing Pet Register etc.

Make sure your dog's microchip is up to date.

If your dog was wearing a collar/tag displaying your telephone numbers, make sure that if anyone rings these numbers someone is available to answer them. Keep your mobile phone with you at all times in case someone finds your dog and tries to contact you.

Remember to speak to any postmen, or other service personnel that cover a wide area.

Putting out your dog's bedding or the contents of the Hoover bag is a good idea (not when it is raining) as it allows them to pick up the scent of where they come from.

Put up as many posters as you can: in vet practices, pet shops, animal charity shops, local shops, outside schools, post offices, libraries, community centres, churches, on supermarket noticeboards, outside cinemas, anywhere that people are likely to gather. Also put posters up at bus stops, tube and train stations, phone boots.

Put leaflets through all the houses around your block or estate, and keep extending further out.

You could include the word Reward in big letters, to make everyone understand that this is really important to you.

If you have a dog who knows your dog, get them involved in the search by taking them for a walk around the house and areas close-by. Dogs can sniff-out things we can't.

Streetlife.com, and Lostbox which people use to post about local issues, is a good site for publicising information about lost cats. Also list your missing dog on animalsearchuk.co.uk, doglost.co.uk, petslocated.com.

Use social networks. Post about your missing dog on local Facebook pages, and on Twitter. Approach your local lost/found pets groups in your area.

Put food and water out for your dog at the same time morning and evening close to where he went missing from or where there have been any recent sightings, and keep doing so even if you think cats or foxes might be eating the food.

Dogs are crepuscular, meaning they're most active at dawn and dusk. Search at other times as well, but focus on those two time periods. Cover the paths where you normally walk your dog, as well as surrounding areas. Draw a circle on a map with your home at the center. Extend the radius out a few miles so you can cover the area in a comprehensive, methodical way.

Ask people that if they do see your dog, not to chase him. Ask that they turn their body to the side and using a happy voice to lure your dog to them. Ask that if they have a yard or other containment area, to coax your dog inside and then call you. Let people know if your dog is dog-friendly, in case they have a dog of their own. And don't forget to mention the REWARD. Positive reinforcement will encourage people to help you.

When searching for your dog, don't shout your dog's name anxiously as he won't recognize the tone of your voice. Call as you would normally.

Search in a triangular area. Dogs tend to go from A to B to C when they're lost.

If you have a car, drive slowly in search for your dog. Dogs recognize the sound of a familiar engine

If you suspect that your dog has been stolen, check on line sale sites. Dog thieves rarely take an animal more than 30 miles from the scene of the crime.