

## Tips for Finding Your Lost Pet

- Search your property thoroughly.
- Walk the neighborhood, talk to everybody, and leave your phone number.
- Make noise, like calling your pet's name, while you walk around the neighborhood. Animals respond to sound.
- Bring a flashlight (even in daylight hours) for checking in dark spaces.
- Place strong-scented personal articles outside your home. Animals find their way by scent as well as sound.
- If your pet is microchipped, call the microchip registry for your microchip and report your lost pet. Every microchip has its own registry so you may have to find your pet's records if you don't know what microchip your pet has. Usually, these registries are open 24/7, 365 days a year, and at any time of the day and night.
- Contact your veterinarian and other veterinarians in your neighborhood.
- Visit your local dog shelters, and all rescue centers in your surrounding areas. Calling is not enough.
- Post lots of posters within a 2-mile radius of where your pet was lost. See tips on making a good lost poster on next page.
- Place an ad in your local newspaper (Lost & Found). Check newspaper "found" ads daily
- Place an ad on Craigslist.
- Facebook – alert friends about your missing pet and encourage them to share your post.
- Neighborhood Email Groups – alert your neighborhood about your missing pet.
- Consider using a lost pet alert service such as [findtoto.org](http://findtoto.org) to contact homes in your area.

**Don't give up! Pets have been known to find their way back home after being lost for several months, even years!**

## Keep Yourself Safe When Collecting Your Pet from an Individual

- NEVER respond to a "found" pet contact alone. Take a friend with you.
- Arrange to meet in a public place.
- NEVER invite the person to your home unless you know them well.
- Beware of scams. A common swindle is a person calling and claiming to have your pet in a different town. They then ask for the money to ship your pet to you. This person does not have your pet; they are simply trying to swindle your money.
- Don't look for your pet alone, during the day or at night. Always bring a friend, especially in unfamiliar neighborhoods.

## **When You Find Your Pet**

- Notify everyone that you have contacted to let them know that your pet has returned safely.
- Thank everybody who has helped you.
- Remove all of your lost pet posters.

## **When making a lost pet poster, keep in mind the following:**

- When you prepare a poster, give only a physical description.
  - Do not give your pet's name. Your pet may not answer to its name if it is lost and scared.
  - Do not give any behavioral information. When a pet is lost its behavior can change dramatically.
  - Do not give information about your pet's collar. Forty percent of pets recovered are lost with a collar and found with no collar or even a different collar.
- If you have a photo of your pet make sure it describes your pet accurately. If not, then you may want to consider using a line drawing from a breed book that you can find at your local library or on the Internet. A photocopy will be fine.
- Writing the word "Reward" on top of the flyer in large print does attract more people. Do not give an amount - when you give an amount you may get some crank calls from people who do not have your pet. A reward is not a must, but it may help.
- Do not indicate that you think your pet was stolen, you may scare people off. The person returning the pet may have nothing to do with the theft.

Source: [24Petwatch Microchips](#)