

What To Do If Your Dog Goes Missing

Hundreds of pets go missing everyday. Some escape from gardens or run off when you are out on a walk, but a high number of pets are also stolen.

There are many places to contact if your dog has gone missing. Make sure that you have all important information about your dog to hand.

- ❁ A full description of what your dog looks like:
 - Breed
 - Height
 - Colour
 - Age
 - Distinguishing features (blue eyes, missing tooth...)
 - Any scars, distinctive markings
 - Colour and style of the collar that your dog was wearing
 - Details displayed on your dogs id tag
 - Whether your dog is neutered
 - Microchipping details (if your dog is microchipped)
 - Tattoo details (if your dog is tattooed)
- ❁ Full details of when and where your dog went missing and the circumstances around his disappearance (ran off, stolen from outside a shop...)
- ❁ If possible try to have up to date photographs of your dog.

Places to contact if you have lost your dog:

- ❁ The police
- ❁ Your local dog warden, and neighbouring area's dog wardens (*call the local council and they will put you through or give you the number. You can find your local council in the phone book or by visiting www.direct.gov.uk/Homepage/fs/en)*
- ❁ DogLost: 01302 743361 www.doglost.co.uk
- ❁ LurcherSearch: 01598 753563 or 01422 240168 www.lurcher.org/luk
- ❁ Pet Detectives: 01903 772176 www.pet-detectives.co.uk
- ❁ All the vets in your area www.vetlist.co.uk
- ❁ Local press / radio stations
- ❁ All local animal rescues
- ❁ Local dog pounds
- ❁ Local shops (*ask if you can display posters and for the shopkeeper to pass the word around*)
- ❁ As many doggie people as you know, ask them to pass the word around
- ❁ Dog related internet forums, many have 'Lost and Found' sections (*see below*)
- ❁ The local Highways Agency or your Local Authority's Refuse Department (*in case of a road traffic accident*)

- ❁ Ask local postmen, milkmen, bin men, bus drivers, taxi drivers to keep an eye out for your dog
- ❁ Network Rail: 08457 114 141 (*if your dog has been hit by a train, they would know*)
- ❁ Lost Dogs, Battersea Dogs Home: 0901 4778477 *For people who have lost their pet within the M25 area*
- ❁ RSPCA: 08705 555 999

What to do next

Item that smells of you/your home

If your dog ran away while you were out for a walk, leave an item of clothing that smells of you (not something freshly washed) at the spot where you last saw him. If you drove to the place that you walked from also put an item that smells of you/home at the place your car was parked. Most dogs will return to the point where they last saw you. Return to these locations at regular intervals and call your dog.

Posters

Posters play a large part in finding missing dogs. Make up posters with your dogs picture on them, making sure the image is as recent as possible and is clear. Include a brief but concise description of your dog and where he got lost. Leave at least one contact number on the poster, a number that will be answered at all times. A mobile phone number is best.

Get these posters printed off or photocopied and stick up as many as you can. Place them in vets, pet shops, pet food suppliers, libraries, local shops, schools, post offices, police station, community centres, dog groomers, newsagents, supermarkets, taxi ranks... Stick posters in the area that your dog was last seen on lampposts, gate posts, stiles. The more people that see it, the more chance you have of finding your dog.

If you are unable to make a poster yourself, DogLost (www.doglost.co.uk) will create one for you.

Use the Internet

If you have access to the internet, there are many sites that you can post details of your missing dog, or that you can contact for help:

<http://www.doglost.co.uk>
<http://www.dogtheftaction.com>
<http://www.lurcher.org/lsuk>
<http://www.pet-detectives.co.uk>
<http://www.pethunters.co.uk>
<http://www.petsearchuk.org.uk>
<http://www.lostlabs.com>
<http://www.lostdogsuk.com>
<http://www.lost-doggies.com>
<http://www.missingpetsbureau.com/home/index/index.aspx>
<http://www.pawtrax.co.uk>
http://www.dfordog.com/lost_dogs.htm
<http://www.dogpages.org.uk/forums/index.php?showforum=7>
<http://greyhoundgap.proboards35.com/index.cgi?board=lurcher>

http://www.champdogsforum.co.uk/cgi-bin/board/board_show.pl?bid=14
<http://www.rykat.org/forums/index.php?s=d1ee11f413588cc98a97eb90b590ea92&showforum=21>
<http://www.flealess.org/lostpets/england.html>
<http://www.lostyourpet.net/default.aspx?countryid=1>

Create a web page

You may know someone that can set up a web page for your missing dog, similar to the one created by Spot's owners: <http://www.search4spot.co.uk>
Submit the site to search engines, and include on posters, or postings on internet forums/sites. It's just one other way to spread the word and reach as many people as possible.

Contact Rescue Centres

Contact all local rescues, and the larger rescues in your area.

Local Rescues - Sussex and Surrounding Areas

Mid Sussex Happy Breed Dog Rescue: 01444 239005/01273 843897 www.happybreed.co.uk

Last Chance Animal Rescue: 01732 865530 www.lastchanceanimalrescue.co.uk

Sussex Pet Rescue: 01273 551815 www.susseppetrescue.org.uk

RSPCA (Patcham): 01273 554218 www.rspca-brighton.co.uk

RSPCA (Godstone): 0870 0101 841 www.rspcasouthgodstone.co.uk

Kit Wilson Trust: 01825 830444 www.kitwilsontrust.org.uk

Dogs Trust (Shoreham): 01273 452576 www.dogstrust.org.uk

Raystede: 01825 840252 www.raystede.org

Dogs In Need: 01276 858720 www.dogsinneed.co.uk

Contact UK Breed Clubs

If your dog is a pure breed, it is a good idea to contact all UK breed clubs for your particular breed. They may hear of dogs looking for homes, or dogs that have been found that fit your dogs description. Most can be contacted by phone, post or email. Provide as much information as possible and include a picture if emailing/posting.

Contact your Local Press/Free Ads

Place an advert in the local paper and Free Ads about your missing dog. Contact dog magazines/papers and ask if they would print the details. Contact local radio stations, ask them to mention your missing pet, do the same with local television stations. There is a chance that not all will be able to help, but aim for as much coverage as possible. It has to be worth a try.

Keep Trying

Once you have made contact with as many people that you can think of, call them again. Keep your pets details fresh in their minds.

Keep Everyone Informed

When your dog is found, please remove any posters and let everyone that might be helping in your search know that your dog is now safe.

Minimise the Risk – Keep your Dog Safe

- 🌿 Have your dog microchipped and/or tattooed. Remember to update your details if you move house.

- 🌸 All dogs should wear a collar and tag by law. Avoid including the dog's name. Include your telephone number/address.
- 🌸 If your dog has been neutered/microchipped, include this information on your dogs id tag
- 🌸 Have clear up to date photos of front and side profiles of your dog.
- 🌸 Keep a record of any distinguishing features, scars, unusual markings.
- 🌸 Train your dog not to go out of your sight on walks. Use an extending lead if the dog does not comply.
- 🌸 Beware of strangers taking an interest in your dog, never give details about your dog.
- 🌸 Vary your walk times and routes.
- 🌸 NEVER tie your dog up outside a shop and leave him.
- 🌸 NEVER leave your dog unattended in a car.
- 🌸 If there is easy access to your garden via a gate, fit a cow bell (or other type of warning sound) to your gate so that you can hear trespassers enter.
- 🌸 Ensure your fencing is adequate and check it regularly for wear and tear.
- 🌸 Keep your dog in view when you leave it in the garden