

Lost Dog Checklist

1. Contact Animal Control
 - a. Report dog missing, provide dog picture, provide contact info
2. Contact friends/family
 - a. Put up lost dog posters (**statistically proven to be the best source for locating a lost dog**) in lost dog area
 - i. Poster street signs
 - ii. Store fronts
 - b. Distribute flyers in newspaper slots / mailbox flags in immediate lost dog area or more rural areas
 - c. Search for lost dog
 - d. Spread lost dog report through social media (community/town/county social media groups, humane society, local businesses, lost dog groups, etc.)
3. Contact Local Animal Rescue / Dog Groups
 - a. Report dog missing
 - b. Enlist help from rescue / dog groups
 - i. Request volunteers to help put up posters, flyer mailboxes, search for dog
 - ii. Social media support
 - iii. Recommend search/tracking dogs to search for missing dog
 - iv. Borrow field cameras for areas where dog was lost/spotted
 - v. Locate closest dog trap
 - vi. Request volunteers to bring their own dogs at some point to look for lost dog if lost dog will respond positively to other dogs
4. Create muster point in the area dog was lost
 - a. This is the location to meet people to:
 - i. Distribute pre-made lost dog flyers
 - ii. Distribute 1 gallon zip-lock bags, protective sleeves, UV resistant zip ties, staple guns, staple gun staples, utility knives, transparent tape. These are all tools to post flyers. Volunteers may or may not have the necessary tools.
 - iii. Tell volunteers what roads to distribute flyers
 - iv. Tell volunteers what areas to search
 - v. Distribute maps
 - vi. Tell volunteers to update social media lost dog page with areas flyered/searched/findings
5. Search and stay in the area the dog went missing as long as possible (**first 24-48 hours most critical in locating dog quickly**)
 - a. Items for searching may include flashlights, squeaker toys, squakers, leashes, collars, dog treats, camp grill/stove, bacon, blankets, bug spray, water etc.
 - b. Be prepared to leave worn clothing items behind for dog to find your scent, water bowls, feeding station
 - c. Consider camping in the area the dog was lost
6. Put ad in local newspaper for lost dog
7. Report lost dog to local tv and radio stations
8. Remain calm and positive. Your dog is smart. Be sure to continue to ask for help. People want to help and want your dog home safe. Everyone will help to ensure a waggy-tail ending!
9. After you are reunited with your dog, please remember to take down posters and notify volunteers and search parties.