



## MISSING PET RECOVERY TIPS - General

- If you did not see your pet escape, but cannot find him, make sure to conduct a thorough search of your home, including within the underside of beds, couches and other chairs and sofas, attics and basements. Conduct a thorough search of your yard.
- The initial hours after your pet goes missing are crucial so start right away! Ask others to help out.
- Search your immediate neighborhood, including several blocks in each direction, calling out your pet's name, squeaking his favorite squeaky toy and pausing to listen for any noises he or she may be making.
- Ask around. Mention your missing pet to anyone you see walking around and ask if they have spotted him. If searching at night, make sure to have a leash with you and a flashlight to look for reflections of their eyes.
- Make posters and flyers that include "LOST DOG/CAT" in large letters, a large color photo, date and location last seen, behavior information (shy, friendly, etc.), and contact information.
- Hand out flyers to neighbors, mail carriers, veterinary offices, local businesses, libraries, grocery store bulletin boards, etc.
- Posters should be vertical on neon-colored poster board (size recommendation is 22"x28") with an 8.5"x11" flyer in the middle. LOST DOG/CAT should be approximately 4" tall in thick permanent black marker. Flyer should be taped to poster inside a clear page protector to protect from rain damage.
- Call animal shelters, rescues, animal control, veterinary offices/hospitals and police stations. See our list of contact numbers. <https://mohawkhumane.org/phone.html#animalcontrol>
- Place an ad on lost and found pet pages, groups on Facebook and/or Craigslist and contact newspapers to place ads. Use our online form to submit a photo and information. <https://mohawkhumane.org/lost-report.html>
- Visit local shelters and ask to see any animals that have come in since your pet went missing. Leave a photo with your contact information.
- Be persistent, check as often as you can, and do not give up hope. Pets can be found days, weeks or months after they initially went missing.



## MISSING CAT RECOVERY TIPS

### Indoor Only Cats

- Roughly 92% of indoor only cats (84% of outdoor access cats) are found within a 5-home radius of where they went missing; they often find the first hiding place they can and hunker down in silence.
- Immediate search should be in the vicinity of the home and yard, then be broadened.
- Check under cars, decks and gardening supplies, equipment, etc. Since cats can fit into the smallest of spaces, leave no stone unturned.

### Outdoor Access Cats

- Outdoor access cats will have a larger territory, so the area you canvas should be wider.
- 84% of outdoor access cats are found within a 5-home radius of where they went missing!
- Outdoor access cats that are pushed out of their normal territory will often exhibit similar behaviors of displaced cats and seek immediate hiding places.
- Humane traps are effective and should be placed where they can be monitored via sight or wildlife camera and access them quickly.

### General Tips

- Familiar scents can help. Leave out an article of your recently worn clothing. Put out a bowl of your cat's favorite food and his litter box to help lure him back home.
- Hanging neon LOST CAT posters at highly trafficked areas is one of the best ways to get the word out to your neighborhood.
- Cats without a collar on are often perceived to be stray, feral or abandoned, as opposed to lost, and are likely to be taken in by a Good Samaritan. Go door to door, to speak with neighbors and hand deliver flyers.
- While going door to door, ask residents if they would be willing to let you look under their deck or around their yard and garage.
- Displaced cats likely will not come when called, so do not assume your cat is not within the area solely because he did not respond.
- The use of a flashlight to search - even in daytime - will illuminate the reflective shine of your cat's eyes, enabling you to find him in places you may not notice him in otherwise.
- Shy, skittish or displaced cats in general often exhibit behaviors most people think to be that of a feral cat, so be sure to talk with your neighbors and local authorities regularly.
- Check with shelters frequently, visiting as often as you can in case your cat has been brought in.
- If you have a garage, consider leaving it open slightly so that your cat may find his way in.
- Do not rely on just one recovery method when searching for your pet. Utilizing multiple methods will give you the best chance of being reunited with your lost friend.



## MISSING DOG RECOVERY TIPS

### Extremely Social Dogs

- They are likely to come to any person who calls them.
- These types of dogs are likely to be taken in to someone's home or brought to a shelter.
- Canvas the area and go door to door talking to people.
- If you have more than one dog and your missing dog is social, consider bring your other dog with you on search to further entice your missing dog to come out.
- If your dog has a favorite noisy toy, bring it with you on your search.
- Hang large neon posters and hand out flyers to people and local businesses.
- Contact local shelters with a detailed description of your dog, including microchip # if applicable. Ask if there is an e-mail you can send a photo to or a way they can share it online. Submit info to us using this online form: <https://mohawkhumane.org/lost-report.html>
- Share a photo and info about your dog on multiple lost pets Facebook pages/groups. Post an ad on Craigslist.
- Visit shelters and rescues in person frequently.
- Leave your dog's bed or crate and a piece of your clothing outside to draw him to the scent.

### Shy and Fearful Dogs

- Shy and fearful dogs are less likely to approach people, even their owners in some cases, or come when called.
- Distance traveled will depend on whether the dog has been chased by anyone in an effort to catch him.
- If you have more than one dog and your missing dog is fearful, bring your more social dog on a long training lead or long dragline.
- A shy or fearful dog may be recovered later than a social dog due to wariness of surroundings and people.
- He may eventually come out to find food, but prone to running at sudden movements.
- He may need to be humanely trapped, so call shelters, animal control or hardware stores to see if they rent out humane traps for dogs.
- Consider renting or purchasing a wildlife camera to catch footage of what is coming around the trap.
- Canvas the area, hang posters, distribute flyers, share on social media and be sure to note something to the effect of "Fearful, do not chase!"
- Contact animal control and check in frequently to see if there have been any sightings, or if dogs matching your dog's description have been brought in.

### General Tips

- Dogs that escape due to opportunity (gate or door left open, habitual diggers or climbers) are more likely to be closer to home than a dog who is running due to panic or fear.
- Consider tagging your car with paint markers. This turns your vehicle into a mobile ad for your missing dog. Hang a large color photo in a window if possible.