

Lost Animal Emergency Checklist: What to Do RIGHT NOW

Time is the most critical factor. Do not wait. Follow these steps immediately.

Phase 1: The First 30 Minutes (Digital Alert)

1. Launch Key Free Apps:

- **Petco Love Lost:** Immediately upload a clear face photo. This starts the AI facial recognition scan of all partner shelters.
- **PawBoost:** Create a free "Lost" post. This alerts the local PawBoost "Rescue Squad" and Facebook community.

2. Alert Your Local Network:

- **Facebook:** Post directly to your personal timeline. Ask friends to SHARE, not just "like."
- **Local Groups:** Post in your city/county "Lost & Found Pets" groups, neighborhood groups, and community pages.
- **Nextdoor:** Post to the "Lost & Found" section to alert your immediate neighbors.

3. Prepare Your Description:

- Write a simple text to copy/paste.
- **Example:** "LOST DOG: [Name]. [Breed, Color]. [Male/Female, Spayed/Neutered]. [Weight]. Last seen [Date/Time] near [Cross-Streets]. Scared, do not chase. Call [Your Phone Number] immediately."

Phase 2: The Next Hour (Phone Calls & Physical Action)

1. Call All Local Shelters & Animal Control:

- Call your county animal control/services.
- Call the humane society and all private shelters within a 20-mile radius.
- File an official "lost animal report" with each one. Ask if you need to come in person.
- *Key Question:* "How often do you update your stray intake online?"

2. Call Local Veterinarian Clinics:

- Call all vet offices near you, especially emergency vets.

- Lost animals are often brought to the nearest vet when found injured.

3. Prepare "Scent Items" at Home:

- Place your animal's bed, their favorite blanket, or an item of your unwashed clothing on your porch or near the escape point.
- This strong, familiar scent can help guide them home.

Phase 3: The Next 24 Hours (Amplify the Search)

1. Make Physical Posters:

- Use large, NEON poster board (pink or green is most visible).
- Use a HUGE, simple headline: "**LOST DOG**" or "**LOST CAT**".
- Include one clear, large photo.
- Use minimal text: [Animal Name], [Location Last Seen], and your [Phone Number].
- Cover posters in clear sheet protectors or packing tape to waterproof them.
- Place posters at major intersections, community mailboxes, and near local parks.

2. Visit Shelters in Person:

- Go to your local animal control and humane society. Do not rely on their website or phone calls.
- You are the only person who can truly identify your companion.
- Go back *every single day* to walk through the stray kennels.

3. Consider Paid Alerts:

- Review paid options like a PawBoost "boost" (for targeted social media ads).
- Research Pet Amber Alert (for mass phone calls), especially if your animal is a fast-moving dog.

4. Check Other Databases:

- Post on [lost pet websites](#) like FidoFinder, LostMyDoggie, and Craigslist (in the "Community" and "Pets" sections).
- *Warning:* Be aware of scams on public sites. Never send money.