

My Pet is Lost: Immediate Action Checklist

Phase 1: The First 30 Minutes (Search Hyper-Locally)

- **Search Inside:** Check closets, appliances, garages, sheds, and vehicles. Frightened animals hide.
- **Search Outside:** Walk your property line. Look under decks, in bushes, and in drainpipes.
- **Alert Neighbors:** Notify your immediate neighbors. Ask them to check their yards and garages.

Phase 2: The First 4 Hours (Go Digital & Phone)

- **Microchip:** Call your microchip provider. Report the pet as "LOST" and confirm your contact info is current.
- **Social Media:** Post clear photos and the *exact* location/time lost on:
 - Local "Lost/Found Pet" Facebook groups
 - PawBoost
 - Nextdoor
- **Local Vets:** Email your "Lost Pet" flyer to all vet clinics and animal hospitals in a 5-mile radius.

Phase 3: The First 24 Hours (Physical Search)

- **Shelter Visit:** Physically go to your local county animal shelter and animal control. Do not just call. File a lost pet report.
- **Create Posters:**
 - Use NEON (hot pink/lime green) poster board.
 - Write "LOST DOG" or "LOST CAT" in huge block letters.
 - Use one large, clear photo.
 - Keep text minimal: Pet Name, Location Lost, Phone Number.
- **Place Posters:** Put posters at major intersections and entrances/exits to your neighborhood.

Phase 4: Ongoing Actions (Don't Give Up!)

- **Return to Shelters:** Visit all local shelters every 1-2 days.
- **Refresh Posters:** Check your posters. Replace any that are wet or taken down.
- **Human Network:** Give flyers to your mail carrier, delivery drivers (Amazon, UPS), and landscapers.
- **Set Lures (Cats):** Place your pet's bed or an unwashed t-shirt on your porch. Put out a small amount of strong-smelling food (like tuna) near the escape point, especially at night.

- **Stay Safe:** Be wary of scams. Never send money to someone who "found" your pet without seeing the pet first.