The Pet Detectives
Reuniting Owners with their Pets

Finding a Missing Dog - Owner's Checklist

Area Search You will know which sounds your dog responds to, so use these sounds when out searching ensuring that you take time to listen for any response.	
Wherever your dog has gone missing from, then this is where you should concentrate your initial search, covering as much ground as possible and speaking to anybody you come across, joggers, cyclists, other dog walkers etc. Give them your number so that they can contact you should they spot your dog. You should return to this area as often as you can.	
Visit and search all the areas that your dog is familiar with e.g. regular walking routes or friends' houses that you regularly visit with your dog.	
Personally visit all areas where a sighting of your dog has been reported and thoroughly search the area.	
If you have recently moved (and your previous home is relatively near) then check this area too.	
Posters Posters should be clear and contain the following information; colour photograph of the dog, whether a reward is offered, contact number, when and where last seen and any distinguishing features e.g. white paws. Most people use A4 as their poster size. Weatherproof your poster by putting it into a plastic sleeve or laminating it. *Feel free to use our example poster.*	
Posters should be distributed at the following places/to the following people, around your home, where your dog is regularly walked, where they went missing from and where there have been reported sightings: • Lamp posts, trees, poo bins, phone boxes, bus stops • Local vets, shops, supermarkets, cafés, restaurants, pubs, hairdressers, post offices, garages and schools • Local kennels • Notice boards at local village hall, police station, church, youth club, bingo hall, doctors and dentist • In your window (if visible from the path/road) • On your gate • In car window (yours, neighbours and local friends) • Postman/woman • Waste operatives • Milkman/woman • School crossing person • At intersections where cars are waiting/driving slowly	
Email your poster to friends, family and professional contacts, asking them to forward on to their contacts.	
Email your poster to professional dog walkers in the area.	

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Flyers Use the same guidelines as for posters but use an A5 or A6 size. *Feel feed to use our example flyer.*	
Put flyers through the letterboxes of houses and businesses close to your home, where your dog went missing, where your dog is regularly walked and in places where there have been reported sightings.	
Phone Calls We recommend you call the following organisations.	
Local dog warden. All councils are different but your local dog warden should be able to tell you if your dog has been picked up as a stray or whether a dog fitting your dog's description has been involved in a fatal road accident and collected by the environmental services/cleansing department. www.tagish.co.uk/links/localgov.htm	
Police. The police no longer deal with stray dogs but if you suspect that your dog has been stolen, you should report this to them as a crime.	
Petlog - 0870 4633 999. If your dog is registered with Petlog Premium, they will log your dog's details and send an alert to authorised agencies e.g. vets and welfare centres in a 30 mile radius of your home. This can also be done online at www.petlog.org.uk.	
RSPCA Helpline - 0300 1234 999. They will log and match your dog's details to any found across the UK.	
Local vets - www.any-uk-vet.co.uk.	
Local animal shelters/rescue centres. If your dog is taken to a rehoming organisation and they are unable to identify an owner i.e. the dog isn't microchipped or wearing an ID collar, they can legally rehome the dog after 7 days. The following URL lists animal centres by area - www.dogpages.org.uk.	
Websites There are a large number of 'lost and found' websites which can be used to search details on dogs found in the local area and also to log your dog's details. Most are free but some require a minimal registration fee.	
The following websites are ones which we have found to be most useful: www.amissingpet.co.uk www.animalsearchuk.co.uk www.doglost.co.uk www.foundandlostpets.co.uk www.lostyourpet.net www.nationalpetregister.org www.petsbureau.co.uk www.petlog.org.uk	

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Other	
Contact your local radio station to see if they would be happy to inform their listeners of your missing dog. Some stations will do this free of charge whereas others will charge a significant sum.	
Place an advertisement in your local newspaper. Again, prices will vary depending on your area and the circulation figures.	
Enticing your dog home There are a number of things you can do to help your dog find its way home.	
Leave food and water out in the garden.	
Leave their favourite toy or unwashed bedding in your garden, ideally somewhere sheltered from rain.	
Leave out an unwashed item of your clothing, again in a sheltered place.	
If your dog has a particular canine friend, take them along on your search.	
Use a high pitched whistle when out searching and take time to listen for a reply. Shake a box of their favourite biscuits or take a squeaky toy.	
What to do if your dog comes home (after the initial celebrations, of course)	
If they're not micro-chipped, then make an appointment with your vet to have this very simple procedure carried out. It costs approximately £15-£20 and significantly increases the chances of having your dog returned.	
Update/remove your details from the relevant websites.	
Remove any posters that you have distributed.	
Inform your immediate neighbours.	
If they have been away for a while, it may be worth getting them checked over at the vets.	
If your dog hasn't been neutered then you may want to consider this, particularly male dogs. In addition to not impregnating other dogs thereby adding to the over-population issue, it will reduce his desire to go off chasing female dogs in heat.	