



WHEN YOUR DOG IS MISSING, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!!

START SEARCHING IMMEDIATELY

- Think about places that might attract your dog: the routes you take for your walks, nearby friends, homes with other pets, parks, buildings with dumpsters, food establishments, etc.
- Ask neighbors, family, and friends to help search on foot and in the car. **Everyone should carry a collar, leash, and treats.** (Human food is more tempting than dry biscuits and the smellier the better. Try cheeseburgers, KFC, liverwurst, etc.)
- If you have another pet that your lost dog is close to or your dog likes the company of other dogs, it's a good idea to take them along.
- If your dog is attracted to squeaky toys or clickers, take them with you.
- Search during the day and at night. Often small dogs move under the cover of darkness. There is also less noise and commotion at night, so your dog may hear your voice more readily.
- Use flashlights or night-vision binoculars to check under raised buildings and vehicles and in other dark areas.
- Look under and behind everything. Small dogs can hide anywhere; even if you think a space is too small, look anyway.
- Searchers should call your dog's name in an upbeat manner, squeeze squeaky toys, and maybe try a loud whistle to get your dog's attention.
- Make sure everyone understands **not to chase** the dog but to remain calm. It is probably best to recline or sit on the ground with treats to try to entice the dog to come.

WHILE YOU ARE SEARCHING

- Hang Lost Dog posters and distribute fliers.
- Ask everyone you see and give him or her a flier or a number where you can be reached. Be cautious approaching children because "have you seen my lost dog" is often used by predators. Stress to everyone: Please do not chase!
- Place your dog's bed on your front porch along with food and water in case he comes back while you are away or at night.
- Change the greeting on your voicemail to request information about sightings of your lost pet and the best number at which to contact the caller.

WALK THE SHELTERS!

- It's **very** important that you not only speak with every person possible at the shelter, but physically go look **every** day for your dog.
- Do not rely on the people who answer the phone. They may not be aware of recent intakes, and they may not know what a Brussels Griffon looks like.
- Also, owners frequently bypass their own dogs in shelters because the dogs look so different -- dirty, matted, frightened, defeated. So please **look closely**.



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CONTACT THESE OPERATIONS

- **Local animal control officers, shelters, veterinarians, and 24-hour animal clinics.** Leave a message and a request for a call back if no one is there to take your call. You can obtain information regarding animal control/humane officers and shelters by calling the **non-emergency** number for the police department.
- **Pet recovery service.** If your dog is micro-chipped, call your service so it can put out a blast email to the area. Make sure the service has your current contact information.
- Keep track of everyone you notify about your lost dog. Start a dated contact list of police stations, animal control officers, shelters, vets, humane societies, rescue groups, and others of significance. Your list should include names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and other pertinent details.
- **Homeless Shelters and Camps** – If your community has a Homeless Shelter or a place where the homeless camp, find a way to contact them. Try the Shelter and give your contact information to the individuals in charge. Ask them to get the word out to the camp people that you are looking for your dog and a reward is offered. Have the individuals contact the Shelter Manager and have the Manager contact you. Unfortunately, many of the homeless people want something to love and if your dog is lost and scared they will want to love it. Others want to use “the cute little dog” to attract donations to help “feed my dog”.

FOR THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSTERS

- Use stiff, bright poster boards and big-tip markers so that people driving by can see and read your message.
- Put them at **major intersections** near where you lost your pet and in areas of sightings. Contact local authorities regarding ordinances that regulate posting of fliers or signs on utility poles.
- Also place a poster in your **front yard** in case someone has found your dog and is looking for you.
- Keep the message brief and to the point; e.g., REWARD - LOST DOG, and attach a flier in a protective cove

MAKING FLIERS

- Here is a good template: <http://www.petbond.com/flyerentry.php>
- Print more than you think you will need.

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DISTRIBUTE FLIERS TO / AT

- Neighbors (not in mailboxes)
- Animal control officers, shelters, veterinarians, humane societies, and rescue groups
- Kennels, breeders, groomers, feed & grain stores, pet sitting/walking services, and pet supply stores
- Police and fire departments
- Local schools
- Local, state, and federal agencies that maintain roads and state highways
- Local, state, and national parks
- Utility companies - gas, electric, water, phone, and cable
- Bus stations, salvage yards, gas stations, churches, airports, libraries, car dealers, and laundromats
- U.S. Postal Service carriers and drivers for couriers such as FedEx, UPS, and DHL
- Newspaper courier, yard crews, restaurants that deliver
- Garbage collectors, recycling stations, and landfills or dumps
- Every place with a kitchen facility that cooks or serves food
- Homeless shelters and local daycare centers

USE YOUR VEHICLES TO GET THE WORD OUT



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USE MODERN MEDIA

- Craig's List in both the *Lost & Found* section and the *Pets* section. Renew these posts daily so they don't get buried. Inasmuch as most people do not know the Brussels Griffon breed, say "terrier-like" or "Benji-looking" if your Griff is a rough coat. For a smooth coat, say "Pug-looking".
- Facebook and Instagram
- If your neighborhood association has email alerts, send the information to be blasted.
- And, of course, your local newspaper

LINKS TO POST

- FidoFinder.com
- LostAndPound.com
- LostDogSearch.com
- LostPetUSA.net
- MissingPet.net
- MissingPetPartnership.org
- OliverAlert.com
- Petfinder.com
- PetWatchClub.com

LOST PET SERVICES, FEE-BASED (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)

- FindToto.com
- LostPetCards.com
- PetAmberAlert.com

Most of the information above was gathered from the links below. You can review them for more information.

- <http://www.missingpetpartnership.org/index.php>
- <http://petkey.org/>
- <http://www.petfinder.com/dogs/lost-and-found-dogs/find-lost-dog/>
- <http://www.fidofinder.com/find-your-lost-dog.php>
- <http://dogs.about.com/od/caringfordogsandpuppies/ht/Search-For-Lost-Or-Missing-Dogs.htm>
- <http://www.petplace.com/dogs/what-to-do-if-your-dog-is-lost/page1.aspx>

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Beware of Pet Scam Artists

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Most people are especially sensitive to those who have lost pets. Unfortunately, some are not, and a variety of scams have sprung up to exploit unsuspecting pet owners. Here are a few guidelines:

- Be careful when placing lost-and-found notices: Give enough of a description so your pet can be recognized, but, again, hold back information about an identifying characteristic that will allow you to verify whether or not a person actually has your animal. Once a person has a description of your pet, they may use that information for their own gains.
- When someone calls saying they've found your pet, take some precautions. Do not provide any information – ask the caller for a description of the animal. Do not answer their questions about your pet's description. Ask them to describe your pet in every detail. If a person has your pet and is sincere, they will be eager to describe him and give him back to you without asking for anything in return.
- If your pet was wearing a collar and I.D. tag, ask about it without disclosing any details. If the caller asks for information, wants to meet you at an obscure location or immediately asks for money for the animal's return, be cautious. It may be time for you to call the police.

One ploy that is fairly common is called the "trucker scam." Someone will call and say they have found your pet. "He must have hopped in my truck at the rest stop. I did not even realize he had fallen asleep in the back. I am 200 miles from you now. Please send me some money so that I can drive him back to you. You send them a check and never hear from them again. What happened? The scammer picked up your lost-and-found ad and has called your number and described your pet from your write-up.

Remember: People who have actually found lost pets usually do not want anything but to help you get him back. If the finder is not willing to return your pet without a reward, be suspicious. Ask the finder to deliver your animal to you for the reward. If he refuses, he probably does not have your pet. If the person talks ransom, ask for a phone number so you can get back to him. Then call the police, who will tell you how to proceed. If the caller will not give you a phone number, he probably does not have your pet.