



Losing a beloved pet is a terrifying experience for owner and pet alike. Though the experience can be miserable, with many dangers, pets may survive on their own for weeks or even months.

Use the checklists in this brochure to cover the bases - what to do, where to look, who to contact.



***Stay calm, but act fast.
Your lost pet needs you now.***

ABC's to remember...

Act quickly

Be organized and thorough

Contact as many people as possible

Don't give up!

CALL US

For more detailed suggestions, cat trap loans, and more.

(907) 562-2535

Visit us online at www.friendsofpets.org

Spot/Neuter Assistance - (907) 562-2535

Adoption Hotline - (907) 561-3677

Information Center - (907) 562-2535

*P.O. Box 240981
Anchorage, AK 99524-0981*



LOST!



***Prepare, protect, persist
to bring your pet
safely home***



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WHAT TO DO

START THE SEARCH IMMEDIATELY

- ❑ Call your pet's name loudly and often. If you've lost a dog, bring his best canine buddy along on the search. Listen carefully for faint sounds from a trapped animal.
- ❑ Leave fresh food and water on a porch or sheltered area close to your home.
- ❑ Put an unwashed piece of clothing outside in a cardboard box—the familiar scent may help guide your pet home.
- ❑ Create a "Lost" flyer and make 200-300 copies to post over a 20-block area. Offer a reward in big letters. Include a photo and description with breed, age, name, color, markings and when/where lost. For an unusual breed, say something like "looks like a cocker spaniel." Make sure that the phone number you provide is always answered by a person or machine.
- ❑ Gather your pet's vet records and some photographs to take to Animal Control (to prove pet's ID, shot history and spay/neuter status if found).



DOGS RUN, BUT CATS HIDE

Cats can be especially hard to find. Start inside your home (closet, basement, laundry room, clothes dryer, anywhere a cat could be trapped) and work your way out (garage, shrubbery, sheds, gratings, vehicles) to surrounding property. Ask to look on neighbors' property. Most cats are found within 8 weeks, but it may take longer. Don't expect your cat to come to your call. You must find her.

- ❑ With a flashlight and an open can of tuna, search for cats at night when streets are quiet and cats come out to look for food.
- ❑ Mark your area with the cat's own scent by spreading his used kitty litter at the edges of your property.
- ❑ Set a live trap and check it regularly. Friends of Pets can loan you one.



WHERE TO LOOK

- ❑ Cover a 20-block area around the pet's last known location. Walk or bicycle in ever-widening circles, and take your car on some searches—your pet may recognize it.
- ❑ Check shopping centers, school grounds, construction sites, abandoned buildings, crawl spaces, dumpsters, trash cans, yards, streets, parks and woods.
- ❑ Post your flyers everywhere you can.
- ❑ Keep going back to the same places; your pet may respond differently in a day or two.
- ❑ Visit Animal Control every day, in person. Check the public kennels and the bulletin boards. Go to the front counter to check on animals held in the restricted areas, and recent DOAs. There are Lost and Found notebooks at the counter. Complete a "Lost" report and place it in the book, with your pet's photo and your contact information. Check the "Found" book. Post your flyer on the bulletin board.
- ❑ If you have moved, search at your old location and contact the owner or tenant at your old home.

WHO TO CONTACT

- ❑ Leave a flyer at veterinary hospitals in your area, also at Pet Emergency and Diamond Animal Clinic (24-hour hospitals), the Alaska SPCA (562-2999), the Alaska Humane Society (cats only—344-8808), groomers and feed stores.
- ❑ Give flyers to neighbors, joggers, mail and paper carriers, delivery drivers like FedEx and UPS, garbage collectors, cab drivers.
- ❑ Talk to the children in your neighborhood; kids often see what adults haven't noticed.
- ❑ Run a newspaper ad for at least three weeks. The Anchorage Daily News (257-4444) offers the first week ad for free. Call us for contact info of other newspapers.
- ❑ Notify your vet in case your pet is returned there.
- ❑ If you think your pet was stolen, call the police.



WARNING

Don't let your emotions override your common sense. Some 'finders' collect a fortune in rewards for lost pets they haven't really found. Protect yourself. Never pay reward money or any shipping costs without first viewing at least a clear photograph of the 'found' pet. Hold back some information about one special feature (a bent ear, a curly tail) so that you have a sure way to identify that it's your pet.