

STEP ONE

Thoroughly search your home.

Use flashlights to check under buildings & vehicles, inside sheds, and other dark spots.

STEP TWO

Knock on doors and ask to search neighbouring properties. Ask your neighbours, family and friends to help you search the places that might attract your dog.

- Think about nearby friends' homes, parks, homes with other pets, buildings with dumpsters, food establishments, etc. that your dog might like.

Super Search Strategies

- Dogs that escape due to opportunity (gate/door left open, habitual diggers or climbers, etc.) are more likely to be closer to home than a dog who is running due to panic or fear.
- Search on foot and in the car.
- Everyone should have a collar, leash, and treats.

- If you have more than one dog consider taking your other dog with you on your search (on a longline) to further entice your missing dog to come out.
- If you have a garage consider leaving it open slightly so that your dog may find their way in.
- Leave your dogs bed/crate outside (and under cover) with his and your scent on it.

The personality of your dog will affect what he does and your search strategies.

Shy and Fearful Dogs:

- Are less likely to approach people, even the owners in some cases, or come when called due to fear.
- May eventually come out to find food but may be prone to running at sudden movements.
- You need to take things slowly. Crouch low at your dog's level. Avert your face and eyes, while watching out of your peripheral vision. Use a crinkly bag of tasty treats or food to attract the dog's attention. Gently toss some treats toward your dog. Speak in a calm relatively high-toned encouraging voice. Let him come to you. Don't try to clap your hands, chase or lunge toward him.
- You may need to search further. Distance travelled will depend on how far he ran when originally frightened and if he has been chased by anyone in an effort to catch him.
- You may need to search longer, due to your dog's wariness of surroundings and people.
- You may need to humanely trap the dog, so call shelters/Local Government animal management/wildlife departments to see if they rent out humane traps for dogs. Consider renting/purchasing a wild life camera to catch footage of what might be visiting the trap.
- Write "Fearful, do not chase!" on all of your posters, fliers and online listings.

Social Dogs:

- Are more likely to approach/come to any person who calls them.
- These types of dogs are likely to be taken in to someone's home or taken to a shelter or vet clinic.
- If your dog has a favourite noisy toy, take it with you on your search and use that noise.

STEP THREE

Make simple fliers to distribute to your neighbours AND giant neon posters for street poles or in local shops. Produce a flier on-line.

Include LOST DOG, a PHOTO of your dog, YOUR PHONE NUMBER and any unique features (people driving past will have 5 seconds to read it, so 5 words max).

Find an A4 flier/poster template at <https://www.g2z.org.au/lost-pets.html>. Note: Check with your Council on laws related to displaying community posters.

Write a simple message on your car's back window (large print using bright-coloured, water-based chalk markers).

STEP FOUR

Contact all your local shelters and pounds and vet clinics on the first day, and visit to view all dogs in the pound/shelter every 1-3 days.



STEP FIVE

Contact the microchip company your dog is registered with, check the details registered with them are correct, let them know your dog is missing.

Not sure which company your dog is registered with?

- If you know the microchip number, you can visit www.petaddress.com.au to search for your pet's microchip database.
- If you don't know the microchip number, contact your vet, or phone the following microchip companies:
 - Australasian Animal Registry 02 9704 1450
 - Central Animal Registry 03 9706 3187
 - Global Micro Animal Registry 02 8338 9063
 - HomeSafeID 1300 537 140
 - Petsafe 02 8850 6800
 - NSW Companion Animal Register 1300 134 460 (NSW residents only)
 - www.dogsandcatsonline.com.au (SA residents only)

STEP SIX

Utilise local lost and found and community web and social media sites to list your lost pet for example:

- www.petsearch.com.au
- www.lostpetfinders.com.au.

STEP SEVEN

Dogs are often found weeks or months after they go missing. Using all these search steps will give you the best chance of being reunited.

STEP EIGHT

When you find your dog:

- Thank the people who helped you search
- Share your happy news with neighbours, vets and businesses
- Take down posters
- Share the strategies you've learned with others to help them find their dogs
- Help prevent losing your dog again by an up-to-date microchip, collar with current phone number, desexing and effective containment on your property.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

<https://missionreunite.org/>

http://helpfindlostpets.com/sites/default/files/Lost_Pet_Cheat_Sheet.pdf

Although you hopefully will never lose your dog, be prepared. If you can afford it, search online and get a good-quality pet tracking device.

Record your dog's microchip details here:

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Microchip database company

.....
Phone number of your microchip company

.....
Your dog's microchip number

.....
Date last checked details were up-to-date

Pound and shelter phone numbers:

.....
Local pound

.....
Animal shelter

THIS RESOURCE IS A
PARTNERSHIP PROJECT BETWEEN



www.awlqld.com.au



www.g2z.org.au

LOST YOUR DOG?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KEEP HANDY IN CASE YOUR DOG GOES MISSING



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Don't delay! Start searching straight away!
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