

Find Your Pet




Guide To Recovering A Lost Pet



Written By:
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If your pet ever goes missing, an overwhelming sense of panic will quickly set in and it's hard to know what to do other than jump in your car and start searching the neighborhood.

In general, pets who have been frightened and bolted off or escaped your yard and are truly lost, their mindset goes into survival mode.

As a result they will likely stay in hiding, and cautiously move around at night. They won't come out of hiding when called, especially to an unfamiliar voice, and sometimes even when their owners are calling them.

Last year our mini dachshund Onyx was missing for three very long nights after several of our bigger dachshunds dug under our fence.

Our neighbor happened to be outside on his driveway so the other dogs ran back under but when he tried to shoo Onyx back she got spooked and ran into our very vast, heavily wooded neighborhood with acre lots many unfenced.





By the time he rang my doorbell and I came outside literally minutes later, she had completely vanished.

Thankfully he saw the direction she took off into so we had a general area to look.

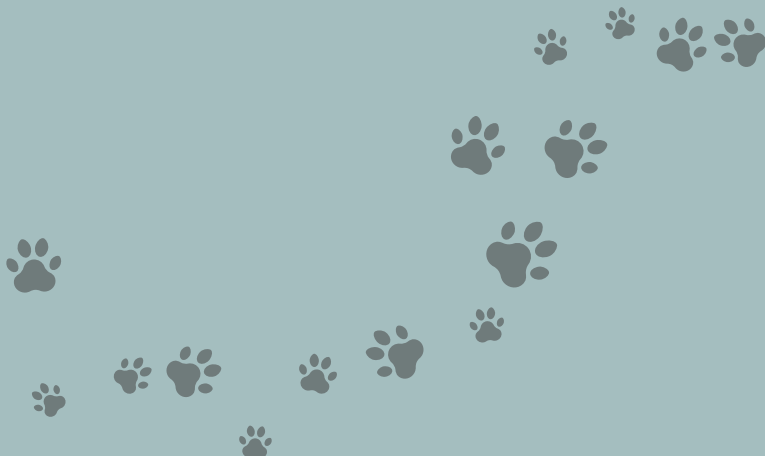
I quickly realized there were not a lot of resources or specific services available to help find a lost pet.

I've created a checklist based on my experience to increase your chances of being reunited with your pet as soon as possible!

First Tip

Make sure you always have good clear recent individual pictures of your pet on your phone and keep several current photos on your laptop for easy access to upload to sites.

The following is a Checklist of the important first steps to take if your pet is lost/missing



1. THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGHTINGS



THIS WAY

THAT WAY

Reported sightings are the absolute most crucial element to finding your pet so you need to immediately post on Nextdoor and/or Neighborhood FB page with a picture and your number to text.

Also noting any other important descriptors like size/weight, or any markings that make your pet unique, last seen location, and any specific instructions “do not chase” or health issues such as Deaf/Blind.

Onyx disappeared at 11 a.m. and the first sighting came in around 4:00 pm and I was surprised how far away she had run.



**You can also ask neighbors if they could kindly check their security cameras that might have caught a glimpse of your dog running through their yard it will have a time stamp and would show the direction the dog was running

***Update your post on Nextdoor at least once a day. It can be with a single comment such as

“Our dog is still missing she was last seen running by the back gate into the woods at 4 pm Tuesday”

2. POST ON LOST AND FOUND FB PAGES

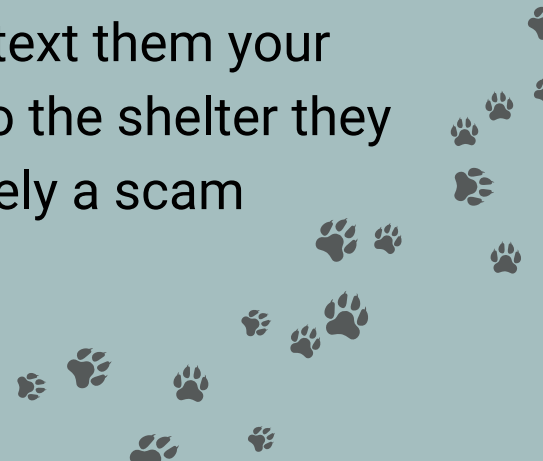


Post on Lost and Found FB pages for your county/notify county shelters they usually have a FB page as well.

Also if there are prominent rescue groups for your breed of dog you can notify them as many will do courtesy posts on their FB pages to help boost exposure.

**Just to make you aware, there are scams out there preying on vulnerable people looking for their lost pet.


So be very careful they will pose as someone trying to help might send you link to a lost pet service or claim they have seen your dog, or turned the dog over to animal control and they need you to text them your phone number or they send you a link to the shelter they dropped your dog off, and it is likely a scam



Do not click on any links or give them any information via text!



It seems obvious but they are very tricky and you won't be in a clear state of mind when you are desperate to have your pet back home. I've included a sample scam messages below.



Angel Albogast
My heart breaks for you, I'm so sorry you're going through this. I hope she/he is found Safe. ❤️🙏
You might need to get the help of some trappers, Send a quick text to (323) 929-7418 on WhatsApp they are professional pet Rescue team that help in finding missing animals to their various homes.

2h Like Reply Message



Ruffhouse Dachshunds's post

Emma Erin Keller shared 🙏🙏🙏, don't forget to files a missing animals report text, (502) 540-9324 they are expert in finding missing/stolen pet. they found mine in less than a week I texted, give them a try hopefully they help you get yours back. the sooner the better

19h Like Reply Message



3. NATIONAL LOST PET SITES



If your pet is microchipped notify the provider such as [Petlink](#), [Nanochip](#), [AKC Reunite](#) of lost status.



Pawboost and other **Petcolove** are free but you'll have to create an account



4. MAKE LARGE STURDY LOST PET SIGNS



Make large sturdy LOST PET signs for high traffic areas such as entrances to neighborhood, the area your pet was last seen, and any busy roads in the vicinity.



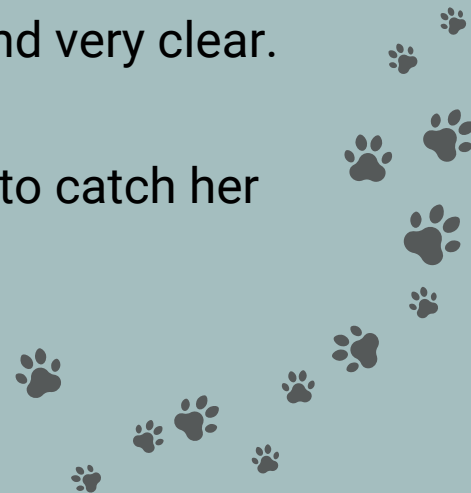
You'll need a high resolution picture to be able to blow it up large to at least a 9 X 11, write your phone number in very large font.

Keep the sign simple with those key components.

Good clear picture, phone number.

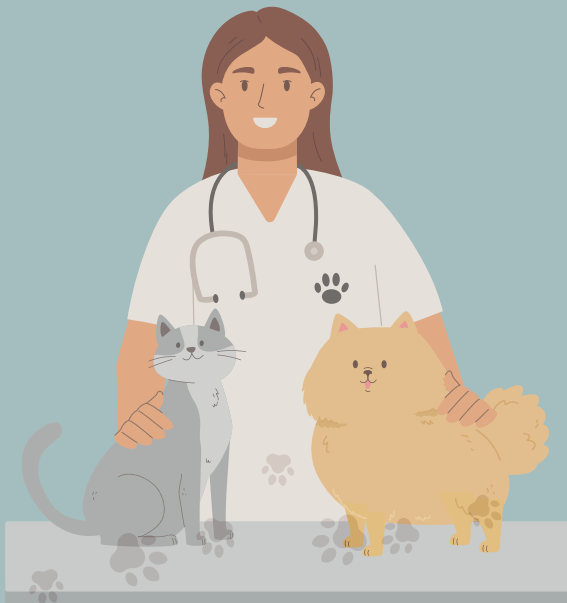
Lost Pet breed of dog/weight written large and very clear.

For Onyx I was also going to put "Do not try to catch her please call or text"



5. NOTIFY VET

Notify your vet who may have a means to share/network with other offices in your area.





6. LPSARDA - LOST PET SEARCH & RESCUE DRONE ASSOCIATIONS



LPSARDA -Lost Pet Search and Rescue Drone Assoc

I reached out to them via FB and she was so helpful, and they were able locate a local Drone Service here in Texas.

I hired them to come search the designated area where she had been seen by several people the first 24 hours.

Fortunately I didn't end up needing to use them as Onyx made it home safely on her own!

7. CONSIDER A GPS COLLAR



Do your research on GPS collars such as Tractive, Fi, and Halo are a few I've seen great reviews on.

Roamtag is new and looks pretty efficient.



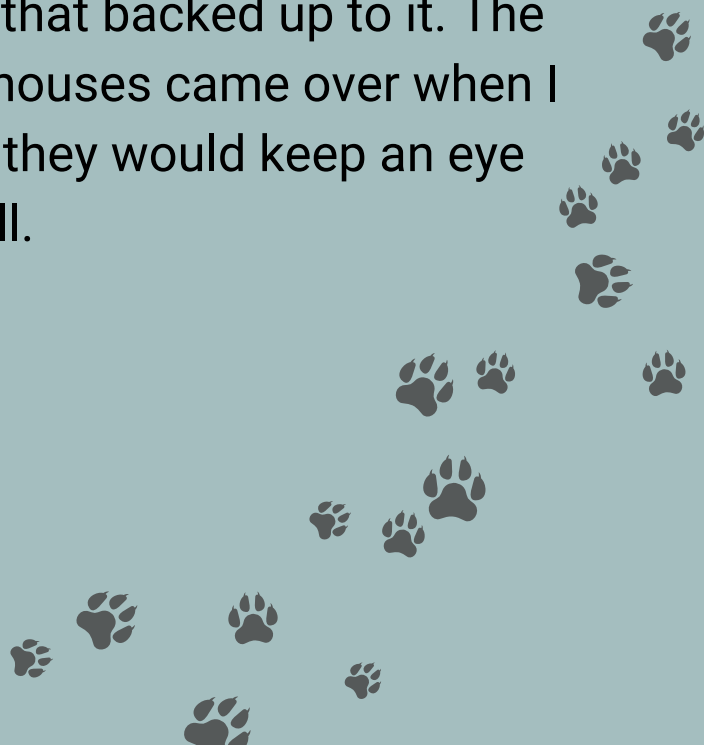
ONYX'S STORY



There was a series of little miracles that happened and I'm so thankful for everyone who played a key role in getting her back home! The first person who spotted her was driving back from the store and saw Onyx running out of our neighborhood across a very busy 2 lane road into a bushy, heavily treed dense field. Thank goodness he had seen my post that morning and he called me. I met him there immediately but she was gone. But the little glimmer of hope was, he said his neighbor had lost their dachshund after the lawn guys left the gate open and that she had a good contact for a lady who trapped lost pets! I reached out to her that evening. The next morning I received a text from another neighbor who spotted Onyx by the back gate of our neighborhood in the wooded area near the lake. In the 5 minutes it took me to drive there, she was already gone again. I was so relieved that she had made it back to our side of the busy street and in an area that did have some homes that backed up to it. The family who lived in one of those houses came over when I was searching for her and said they would keep an eye out as well.



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At 6:30 that morning I started receiving text messages and a phone call saying Onyx was behind our fence at the gate wanting in! Several of my dogs were already down there barking and wagging their tails, I opened the gate and she ran right in. It was truly a miracle that she found her way back home after 3 long days/nights of being lost.

**I received a lot of questions on this...the Pet trapper doesn't set the trap to go off at night because if a wild animal gets caught in there and the dog hears and sees the trap slamming shut or sees the trapped animal they'll never go into it again. She only sets the trap during the day when she can immediately go to the trap if it catches an animal. The point of having it out at night with food and cameras was to attract Onyx, get her on camera to confirm we were searching in the right area! Then we were going to set it up again during the day in-hopes of catching her, but she decided to run the mile and a half home :)

