

# What To Do when you Lose Your Pet

The trauma of losing your pet can be overwhelming. If you develop a plan of action in advance you will be prepared (resource: [www.sherlockbones.com](http://www.sherlockbones.com)).

If your pet gets lost you must take immediate action! Follow these steps:

## 1 Be a Detective!

- Search your neighborhood immediately, especially at night and early in the morning. Knock on doors and talk to neighbors, local residents, and local businesses.
- If you recently moved, check out your former residence. Talk to the new tenants, old neighbors and former veterinarians.
- Visit your local humane society shelters and animal control shelters in person daily—just a phone call describing your pet is not sufficient.
- Ask your mail carrier, newspaper deliverer and all the delivery people in your area, who are around on a regular basis, if they have seen your pet. Ask local joggers and walkers.
- Look for your pet in unusual places around your home, including outside storm drains, wood piles and ditches.
- Check to see if your pet got locked in your neighbors' garages and sheds, especially if any neighbors left for vacation around the time your pet got lost.
- Check new construction sites and dumpsters behind businesses that discard food.
- Contact highway maintenance departments in case your pet was hit by a car.

## 2 Report Your Lost Pet!

- Call animal control or your local police department non-emergency number.
- Call humane societies or animal shelters within a 25 mile radius because pets roam and can get picked up.
- Call veterinary offices and groomers.

## 3 Create Flyers!

- Ask to post them at veterinary offices, high traffic retail areas, mall bulletin boards, animal shelters, groomers and with obedience trainers. Include a written description of your pet including gender, size, markings, weight and unusual features with a photo and your phone numbers.
- Think about putting your pet's name on the poster: Being able to call their name may help someone to catch the pet, or this information may give someone the ability to manipulate the animal more easily if it gets into the wrong hands.
- If you offer a reward, don't name the amount in any posters or ads. Pay it only after you have your pet back in your possession.

## 4 Place Ads!

- Put an ad in your city and local papers with a photo, offering a reward.
- Watch the found ads. You can even call before the paper is printed to see if anyone called in a found ad.

## 5 Don't give up! Be aggressive in your search.

