

What to do if...

Your pet goes missing

You have just realized that your pet is not at home and you can't find them anywhere. What now? First allow yourself five minutes to let all of the initial emotion out. Allow yourself that time to panic, cry or whatever you need to do. Second, take a minute or two to take a few deep breaths and calm down. Then make your "to do list" and start working through it.

So what should your' to do list contain?

1. Contact the veterinarians' offices, law enforcement offices and humane societies in your area to see if anyone has found a lost pet and to notify them that your pet is missing.
2. Organize a group of people to start walking around your area looking for and calling for your pet. Cats are likely to be hiding under bushes or sheds nearby.
3. Notify your pets' microchip company (if they have one) and they will create a lost pet poster that will be sent by fax or email to local veterinarian offices and humane societies.
4. Put out your pets' food, water or bed where they were last seen. Also putting out items of your clothing or items that smell like home can be helpful. Animals have an amazing sense of smell that will help them figure out their way home if they catch a whiff of something familiar.
5. Put up flyers around town and go door to door with flyers in your area that includes a photo of your pet, their name and your contact information.
6. Let people know that if they do see your dog or cat to not chase them because it can scare the animal and cause them to run away again. Scared animals are not very likely to allow a stranger to catch them.
7. Place ads on the lost and found area of Craigslist, in your local newspaper, and also on social media sites.
8. Place notifications on Lost Dogs/Cats of Wisconsin or similar sites.



You find a missing pet

If you find a lost pet getting them back to their family is a priority. Helping to reunite a pet with their owner can be very fulfilling and will help to eliminate the owners' anxiety and fears. There are some things that you can do to help you accomplish this.

Your "to do list" should contain?

1. Check the pet for a license or ID tag.
2. Contact your neighbors and people in your area to see if the pet belongs to them or if they recognize the animal.



3. Take the pet to the closest veterinarian's office or humane society to have them scanned for a microchip or checked for a tattoo.
4. Contact the veterinarians' offices, law enforcement offices and humane societies in your area to see if anyone has reported a lost pet and to notify them that you have found a pet.
5. Check local social media sites and Lost Dogs/Cats of Wisconsin to see if this pet may be reported as missing already.
6. Post on Craigslist, in your local newspaper and on social media sites to let people know that you have found a pet.
7. Create "found dog" flyers to put up in your area and at any animal care business.



Losing your pet can be an incredibly terrifying and stressful experience but setting up a task list can help with the hopeless feeling. Also remember to not give up hope and keep looking. Never give up! Animal instincts kick into survival mode very quickly helping to keep your pet safe.

For more information on what to do if your pet goes missing or you find a missing pet please feel free to contact Cedar Grove Veterinary Services at either (920) 668-6212 or info@cgvet.com.

Additional resources:

- <https://lostdogsofwisconsin.org/>
- <https://public.homeagain.com/>
- https://lostdogsofwisconsin.org/report/lost-dog-report/13246076_10153651543718364_165909095_n/
- https://lostdogsofwisconsin.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/10367734_10152542178361241_301281536682882228_n.jpg
- <https://public.homeagain.com/how-to-find-a-lost-cat-using-personality-clues.html>
- <https://public.homeagain.com/find-a-lost-dog.html>
- <https://public.homeagain.com/found-pet-tips.html>

