

# arf Lost Pet Checklist

There are few things scarier when your beloved pet goes missing. It can be easy to feel overwhelmed or hopeless, but don't give up! Following the right steps will increase the chances of a happy reunion.



## **Contact your local shelters**

If your pet is lost, immediately file a Lost Pet report with the local animal control agency in the area where your pet went missing. Start checking in person and online with your local shelters (at least every 2-3 days).

It can sometimes take a while for a lost pet to show up at a shelter, so don't lose hope if you don't find them quickly!



## **Physical Search**

Cats are usually found close to home, so make sure to carefully search all around your and your neighbors' homes (in bushes or sheds, under decks, garages, etc.). Thoroughly search IN your home, too, since cats can easily become stuck in a cozy spot.

Dogs are able to easily cover long distances, but it is still important to start your search in the area they were last seen and then move outward. Don't chase or shout at them as this may cause them to keep running. Even the most outgoing dog can become fearful when they don't know where they are or if they've been spooked.



## **Posters and Flyers**

Post large, neon Lost Pet posters in your neighborhood, at intersections, and other high-trafficked areas. Use flyers in conjunction with posters and pass them out to neighbors or local vets and pet stores. Make sure to include a clear photo, physical description, and your contact information.



## **Internet and Social Media**

The internet and social media are incredibly effective tools for finding lost pets. Beyond posting on your personal social media pages, post your pet's information on local sites like Nextdoor and Craigslist. Utilize hyperlocal Facebook groups and pet-specific groups. Many communities have Facebook groups specifically for Lost and Found pets. You can post your pet on Lost Pet sites like PawBoost and PetHarbor. Do not rely on social media alone!

**For more information, contact ARF's Resource Center.**

**(925) 256-1273 • (800) 567-1273**

**[www.arflife.org/resource-and-referral-center](http://www.arflife.org/resource-and-referral-center)**