



LOST DOG QUICK ACTION PLAN

- To make all that follows easier, take a full body and head shot picture of your dog immediately when the dog arrives at your home. Take a new photo each year when your dog has the routine Veterinarian visit. This insures that you have a recent photo. A photo of a 2 year old versus a 10 year old is not accurate.
- Have your dog micro chipped and keep the information current. Have your vet scan the chip every year at the annual exam. Sometimes chips move or become non responsive.
- Put a tag with your cell number on the dog's collar and keep it current. You will be out searching and you may miss a sighting of your dog if they are calling your home number or you are away and someone is taking care of your dog.
- Begin search immediately! Do not wait for your dog to come home. Do not assume your dog was stolen.
- Have your neighbors check their yard, under porches, garages, etc.
- If you have a neighborhood online group, join it now. Neighbors are your best helpers.
- Talk to the UPS driver, mailman, trash collectors and dog walkers to be on the lookout.
- Carry a leash on your person during search & don't forget the treats. It's a great idea to have an extra leash in your car at all times.
- Place a blanket/crate & a worn article of your clothing where your dog was last seen. Also set out some aromatic food in bowl near blanket.
- Check your bushes, garage, under vehicles and other small den-like areas on your property.
- Check back at your home every 30 minutes. Often dogs return after they've had a good run.
- Call Animal Control offices, Veterinarians, and animal shelters within a 20-mile radius if you don't find your dog within 2 hours. Generally these are closed on the weekends but you can leave messages. If your area has a police non-emergency number, you can contact the police or in small departments this is allowable.
- Go to your Animal Shelter and walk the kennels. Dogs are often left off postings or the postings are incorrect. Shelters have short hold times, usually 3-5 days.
- Create a simple flier w/large type and print 100 copies to start. Print in B & W on neon paper so be sure the picture you have will work on this. Post within a 2-mile radius of where dog went missing. Provide to Police/shelters & Animal Control. There are websites to help with this. In Central NC, www.trianglelostpets.org is one. Make a list of those in your area.
- Post on Facebook, Craigslist and other online sites. (Be sure to include a photo.). Place an ad in the local paper.
- Instruct everyone that is helping you NOT to CALL or CHASE YOUR DOG. This will prolong your search. If they see your dog, they should sit or lie down (no eye contact) and gently toss out treats to the side of the dog to lure your dog in.
- Take a few minutes and record the phone numbers and websites you would need if your dog was lost. Save all this information and keep it handy.