



LOST PET EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

What to do in the first hours. Print this. Keep it somewhere you'll find it.

The first hour matters more than the next twenty-four.

Most pets are found close to home. Move fast, stay calm, and work the list in order.

FIRST 15 MINUTES

Do these before anything else

- ☐ **Search your own home first.**
Closets, under beds, behind and inside appliances, inside the dryer, basements, crawl spaces. Cats especially hide close and stay silent when frightened.
- ☐ **Check the yard and immediate perimeter.**
Under decks and porches, in sheds and garages, under parked cars, in dense brush.
- ☐ **Prop the door open and put familiar scent outside.**
Their bed, blanket, or litter box. Scent draws pets back more reliably than calling.
- ☐ **Call their name, then stop and listen.**
Give thirty full seconds of complete silence. Most people never stay quiet long enough to hear a faint response.

FIRST HOUR

Widen the search

- ☐ **Walk, don't drive.**
You will miss them from a car. Move slowly, look low, check under vehicles.
- ☐ **Bring high-value treats and shake the bag.**
Sound travels further than your voice. A familiar squeaky toy works too.
- ☐ **Search at their eye level.**
Get low. A frightened animal hides in small dark spaces, not open ground.
- ☐ **Ask neighbors to check garages and sheds.**
Pets get shut in accidentally more often than people expect.
- ☐ **Post to local online groups immediately.**
Nextdoor, neighborhood Facebook groups, local lost-pet pages. Do not wait for morning.

FIRST 24 HOURS

Make it official

- ☐ **File a report with every nearby shelter and animal control.**
Call and visit in person. Descriptions get miscategorized. Go look yourself.
- ☐ **Contact your microchip registry.**
Flag the chip as lost and confirm your contact information is current.
- ☐ **Contact local veterinary clinics and emergency hospitals.**
A found pet is often taken to a vet before a shelter.
- ☐ **Make flyers and post them at eye level.**
Large photo, large text, your phone number. Intersections, mailboxes, store boards.
- ☐ **Leave a worn item of your clothing outside.**
Along with their bed and food. Familiar scent is the strongest draw you have.

YOUR PET'S INFORMATION

Fill this in now, while everything is calm. You won't want to be looking for it later.

THE BASICS

PET'S NAME

SPECIES / BREED

COLOR AND MARKINGS

WEIGHT

AGE

SEX / SPAYED OR NEUTERED

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES (SCARS, COLLAR, TAGS)

IDENTIFICATION

MICROCHIP NUMBER

REGISTRY COMPANY

REGISTRY PHONE NUMBER

REGISTRY LOGIN EMAIL

MEDICAL

VETERINARIAN

VET PHONE NUMBER

MEDICATIONS OR CONDITIONS SOMEONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

LOCAL CONTACTS — LOOK THESE UP NOW

NEAREST ANIMAL SHELTER

PHONE

ANIMAL CONTROL

PHONE

EMERGENCY VET

PHONE

TAKE A CLEAR PHOTO TODAY.

Full body, side view, good light, showing any distinguishing markings. Keep it on your phone.