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The Intuitive Connection

Help, My Pet Got Out

There's nothing worse than when your pet goes missing. The fear sets in, followed by panic as your stress level elevates. You may even experience shock, denial, pain, guilt, anger and depression. It's like a piece of your heart is removed.

When my family moved to my current house, our backyard was a dirt lot that was completely fenced on all sides. We had a black lab named Lucky and a Jack Russell mix named Sassy. Both dogs were really good, and pretty low-key. This was the perfect yard, just under ½ acre with plenty of room to run and play. However, Lucky had other ideas. Our first week in the new house, while we were at work, Lucky dug out under the fence. He and Sassy both took off. The only reason we found out is that we got a call when the dogs were found by someone (thank God they stuck together, and were wearing their collars with tags on them). We gratefully picked them up, and repaired the hole.

The next day, the same thing happened. Lucky dug a new hole in a new spot and off they went. Another call came in while at work that my dogs were found out roaming, this time in a busy intersection. This continued for a week. Every day we would repair and "shore up" the hole (my husband actually started laying down chicken wire along the fence perimeter), and every day he would find a new spot and dig. Sassy eventually got tired of roaming and after about 3 days she stayed and only Lucky escaped. I recall the last time, he got out I was so frustrated and angry that I thought "I hope he doesn't come back." Now, I really didn't mean this, I was just scared because this time he was gone all day and night. The following day I was able to go home at lunch and saw this black body lying on my doorstep. It was Lucky. I thought he crawled home and died. He was alive and well, but so exhausted he barely had energy to lift his head and wag his tail. I let him in the house, where he proceeded to pass out until we returned home from work that evening. I think that last adventure was even a little too much for him as he never tried to dig out again.

If you ever find yourself in the same position, below are some tips to help you find your lost pet. For this article, I'm going to provide tips to help you find dogs, cats and birds. Some of the tips are common for all species, so I've grouped them together. I'll list the tips that are specific to each species separately.

Tips To Find A Lost Pet

1. **Don't waste time! The first 24 hours are crucial.** If you know your pet is missing, grab your phone, a photo, flashlight, treats, favorite toys, pet carrier and/or leash and



start searching immediately.

2. **Search your neighborhood, both on foot and by car.** Ask pedestrians, dog walkers, bicyclists, anyone that is out and about and likely to spot your pet.
3. **Post “Lost” flyers all around your neighborhood, local vet offices, emergency offices, shelters, humane societies, groomers, pet supply stores, any pet related stores, parks, laundromats, grocery stores, community bulletin boards, and anywhere else that will allow it. Don’t forget to post flyers in your car so you become a driving advertisement.** Suggestions for flyers include:
 - Print on light or bright colored paper, with dark, bold letters that are easy to read and easily visible.
 - Include photos (close up of the face and a full body shot), preferably in color.
 - Include a description of your pet, but stay away from using terms most people won’t know, for example: missing male Ratonero Bodeguero Andaluz. What? Keep it simple. Instead, try saying missing male black, tan and white terrier.
 - Include the date your pet went missing.
 - Include your contact number and make it clearly visible, and if possible, have tear of tags with your number for people to take with them. Don’t leave your number somewhere where you can’t remove it later.
 - Include a phrase “Needs medication” to create a sense of urgency and to deter people from keeping your pet.
 - Clearly ask people to **CALL FOR ANY SIGHTING**. People may see your pet, but be unable to catch them. If you know the area where your pet was last seen, you at least have a starting point to begin searching.
 - Do NOT put your exact address on the flyer. You can include a general area, but never the specific address.
 - Do NOT include the microchip number. You can include that your pet is microchipped, but never include the number (as you may need this as proof of ownership).
 - Consider posting a reward. The word “REWARD” should appear in large letters.
4. **Bring a photo with you and show it to everyone you pass.** It can be on your cell phone, or a printed flyer. You may also need this as verification that the pet is yours.
5. **Make sure all of your neighbors are aware of the missing pet.** If safe, knock on doors, explain what happened, and leave a flyer. Ask if you can check (or ask them to check) their garage, sheds, under porches or decks, anywhere an animal might hide.
6. **Place a “Lost” ad in the local newspaper,** and search the daily “Found” ads in the local newspaper. Placing an ad helps to establish that your pet is lost, and not abandoned.
7. **Use the Internet.** Place “Lost” ads on Craigslist, Facebook, Twitter and any social media site you can think of. Make sure to include a photo of your pet. Enlist the help of family and friends to spread the word. Don’t forget to check the “Found” ads for these sites too. When searching for found pets, pretend you are the person posting the ad with limited knowledge about the animal. Use simple terms when searching.
8. **If your pet has a microchip, notify the company immediately.**
9. **Notify local rescue groups, police and animal shelter, and provide your contact information.** Someone may take your animal to a local group, as opposed to the shelter. Leave a printed flyer.
10. **Search the local shelter or any that are within a close proximity DAILY.** Don’t just call, go there in person. Office staff may not know what animals are at the shelter, plus the wrong information could have been recorded during the intake process. If your pet was injured, they may be in a quarantine or medical area so ask about those areas when visiting. Fill out a “Lost” report, leave a printed flyer, and don’t forget to search through the “Found” reports at the shelter as someone may have reported finding your pet, but are holding it.
11. **Contact an animal communicator.** A communicator should be able to let you know if your pet is alive or has passed, and give you an idea of what is around them (from the pet’s perspective). They can also let your pet know how much you miss them and to return home (if possible).
12. **If you’ve recently moved, extend the search area to include your old neighborhood.** Don’t forget to put up flyers there too and alert the neighbors.
13. **When you return home, leave food, water, toys, beds, blankets, etc outside your door.** Use your other pets too (if possible) to help leave a scent trail to and from your house. Consider putting out a baby monitor near the food

to detect sounds, or set up a video camera any activity.

14. **Think Positive!** Visualize your pet returning home, safe and sound. Keep telling them how much you love them and want them to return home.
15. **Never Give Up!** Keep looking, keep re-posting flyers and lost notices on social media (include “Still Missing” on the flyer or post), plus keep checking lost and found notices. Perseverance is your most valuable tool in bringing your pet home.

Use caution when someone claims to have found your pet, especially if they ask for the reward in advance. Unfortunately there are plenty of scam artists looking to cash in on your misfortune. Only meet in a public place (police stations are ideal), never go alone, and never give anyone money until your pet is safe in your hands.

Additional Tips for Lost Dogs:

1. Make sure your dog is wearing an identification tag at all times.
2. Dogs are crepuscular, meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk. Search at other times as well, but focus on these two time periods.
3. Cover the paths you normally walk, as well as the surrounding areas. Locate your house on a map, and then extend the radius out a few miles to establish a search grid.
4. Take along really stinky, yummy food you know your dog will love. Bring a favorite squeaky toy too.
5. Shout out your dog's name in a happy voice. Use phrases that get them excited like “wanna go for a walk, ride, etc,” and add your dog's name. Make sure to use your normal tone of voice.
6. If your dog has been trained to recall, use the recall cue (again in a normal tone of voice).
7. If you have another dog or pal they play with, bring them along on searches.
8. If your dog is not people friendly, make sure to mention this in the flyer. Even if your dog is people friendly, when scared they are less likely to approach people. Suggest the people crouch down, or turn to the side and use a happy voice.
9. If your dog is not pet friendly, make sure to mention this in the flyer too.
10. Think like a dog. Search all the places that a dog would find attractive, such as dog parks, fields, woods, garbage dumps, dumpsters behind restaurants, etc. Don't forget to search under things like cars, bushes, porches, etc.
11. If you spot your dog, DON'T chase them. Instead, try running the other way, and encourage them in a happy voice to chase you.

Additional Tips for Lost Cats:

1. Not all missing cats are lost. Cats are experts at getting into hiding places that may seem impossible. Make a thorough search indoors, and around the porch, garage, and yard. Don't forget to look up, if they can't hide, frightened cats go up, so search the roof and in trees.
2. Think like a cat. Where do they normally go? What is the most likely escape route? What are their favorite bushes or hiding spots? Begin searching around your house and spread out to the immediate neighbors.
3. Take a flashlight, even during the daytime. Frightened cats hide, even in the smallest, most unlikely of spaces. If you can squeeze your fist through an opening, your cat can squeeze through too. Use the flashlight to look for eye shine.
4. Indoor cats: Usually stay within 300-500 feet of where they wandered from. They also will typically follow along the side of a house, as opposed to bolting out in the open. Follow the edge of the house in both directions and look for the first available hiding spot.
5. Indoor/Outdoor cats: Generally have an established territory, however it's probably no more than a block or two from where you live. Get the neighbors to aid in your search.
6. Cats are crepuscular, meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk. Search at other times as well, but focus on these two time periods. Fearful cats also tend to come out after dark. Go outside one last time in the evening to check and call your cat's name before bedtime. Many cat owners have reported their cats returning between

8pm-2am and 4am-7am.

7. Look and listen, don't just call. A frightened cat will seldom come to you, but may answer if you call, so stop and listen carefully. When calling for your cat, use a normal speaking voice. Try sitting outside and have a normal conversation, using a calm, quiet voice.
8. Use the dinner bell to your advantage. Take the food outside and prepare it like you normally would. Pour dry food into the bowl, open the can, even use an extension cord and take the electric can opener outside. Or try something really enticing such as sardines, tuna or other stinky food. Heat the food to create an even greater aroma, and reheat to keep the smell going. Don't leave the food out. You could attract other animals, which will keep your cat from returning.
9. Leave the garage door open just a crack. Cats like to sneak back home, and will sit on the interior step and scratch or meow.
10. Put their litter box and/or litter scoop outside, along with articles of clothing, a slept on pillowcase, used bath towel, cat bed, or something with a familiar scent.

Additional Tips for Lost Birds:

1. When your bird is flying off, make a noise so they know where you are. Note the direction they flew, and how energetic or tired they were. This will help indicate how far they may fly before landing to rest. Pet birds generally stay within a mile of where they were lost for the first few days.
2. Look for wild birds. Frightened birds tend to stay quiet, but may become vocal if wild birds come near.
3. Put the bird's toys in the window. Also try opening the window that is closest to where your bird's cage is kept. Move the cage as close to the window as possible, and open the cage door, and put their favorite toy in the back of the cage opposite the door.
4. Hang the bird's cage outside, if possible. Make sure the location is not accessible by other animals, and stay nearby. You need to be able to close the cage door quickly if they return.
5. If you have other birds, take one with you in a travel cage as you walk in the neighborhood. Their calls may entice your missing bird back home.
6. Birds are not active during the dark. When the daylight fades, work on flyers, social media posts and other avenues to help reunite you with your missing bird.
7. If you live in an area where your species of bird lived wild, try contacting your local wildlife rescue. They may have found your bird, or it may have been brought in by someone else.

As a communicator, I have been able to help guide families and pets back together. I've also had the devastating task of informing the person that their beloved pet had passed and would not be returning home. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee for reuniting a lost pet. For those I was not able to help bring home, it is still heartbreaking for me. Below you will find links for missing pets. I pray you never need to use them.

Resource links:

Bird Hotline (Lost Birds): www.birdhotline.com

Fido Finder (Lost Dogs): www.fidofinder.com

Lost/Found Pets: www.lostfoundpets.us

Lost Pet USA: www.lostpetusa.net

Missing Pet Network: www.missingpet.net

Missing Pets USA (Facebook): www.facebook.com/missingpetsusa

PawBoost: www.pawboost.com

Pet Amber Alert: www.petameralert.com

Pet FBI: petfbi.org

PetFinder: www.petfinder.com

Tabby Tracker (Lost Cats): www.tabbytracker.com

The Center for Lost Pets: www.thecenterforlostpets.com

Upcoming Events

New Earth Expo

Crowne Plaza
5321 Date Ave
Sacramento, CA
March 5
10:00—6:00

Reno Spiritual & Wellness Expo

Best Western Airport Plaza
1981 Terminal Way
Reno, NV
March 18—19
10:00—6:00

Healing Arts Festival

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
6151 H St
Sacramento, CA
April 1—2
10:00—6:00
10:00—5:00

Nevada City Psychic Fair

Miners Foundry Cultural Center
6151 H St
Nevada City, CA
April 8—9
11:00—6:00
11:00—5:00



Trinity Healing

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Services offered:

Animal Communication

Energy Healing

Custom Stone/Crystal Healing Jewelry

Educational Workshops

For your convenience, services can be scheduled in
person or remotely.