



✓ Pet Search Checklist

<http://www.vcas.us/lost-found/pet-search-checklist>

✓ **VISIT:** You will find a great list of comprehensive tips on finding fearful animals, feral cats, and aloof dogs at www.missingpetpartnership.org Also includes how to think like a lost pet, effective signage tips and much more!

✓ **SEARCH:** Conduct a physical search around the neighborhood. Search for DOGS and CATS differently!

- Search neighbors' yards (with permission), under decks and bushes, and in sheds, garages, and crawl spaces.
- Cats: If you search too fast around bushes/garages you'll miss them. They don't move when they're hiding. Grab a flashlight and move slowly around.
- Visit local shelters (Do not rely solely upon pictures on websites.)
- Call/visit local vets (find a list of local vets at www.webvet.com/main/vetfinder).
- Rent wildlife cameras and/or humane traps (**one of the most important steps for missing cats**)

✓ **POST SIGNS:** Post signs where the pet was lost/last seen (obey local sign laws*)

- Post neon "Lost Cat/Lost Dog" and/or "Reward" signs at intersections and around neighborhoods
- Use step stakes to post signs at intersections/on lawns (with permission)
- "Tag" your car windows using neon markers (usually for dogs only)
- Distribute flyers to local vets, coffee shops, bulletin boards, neighbors, etc.
- (*we recommend Googling "sign ordinance" with your city name to determine the sign ordinances in your area)

✓ **POST/SEARCH ONLINE:** Search and post ads to classified websites and newspapers.

- Craigslist — Search and post your pet's info in the "Lost/Found" section on Craig's List.
- www.PetHarbor.com — Search for your pet in area shelter listings and report your pet as "lost" using their online feature - Be sure to upload a photo of your pet. If someone finds a pet matching your animal's description or if a shelter receives a similar pet, you will be notified via email.
- Twitter: Visit our Lost Pets Twitter feed to see all stray animals that come into our shelter: @VCLostPets.
- Facebook: Search and post your pet's information on appropriate Missing Pet pages:
 - Camarillo Missing Pets
 - Fillmore Missing Pets
 - Moorpark Missing Pets
 - Oxnard Missing Pets
 - Port Hueneme Missing Pets
 - Santa Paula Missing Pets
 - Thousand Oaks Missing Pets
 - Ventura County Missing Pets
- Finding Rover: Uses facial recognition software to match your pet's face to scanned faces in the area. Download the app.

Post and search daily! It may take days or weeks for finders to post found animals online.

✓ **HOPE:** This is the most important tip — **DO NOT GIVE UP HOPE!** Many pets are recovered weeks, or even months after they go missing. Our website (www.vcas.us) updates every 30 minutes as new animals arrive.