



## Wisecracks Pets Lost & Found

How to start to finding your lost pet, although the routine is more focused on cats it has relevance to most lost pets Most of this search list is taken from the wonderful site [Pets On The Net](#)

### Your Cat Has Gone Missing What Can You Do?

**IMMEDIATELY - Search your house, garden, sheds and garage**

#### **KITCHEN / LOUNGE**

All cupboards and drawers  
On top of cupboards  
Boxes/ paper/ paper recycle  
Behind and under stove  
In warming drawer  
Behind and under fridge  
Behind and under dishwasher  
Bread maker, crock pot, baskets, pots  
In behind/in vegetable drawers  
Stacking vegetable bins  
Potato bags  
Under couch cushions  
Under couch/behind couch  
Behind curtains  
In bookcase  
TV/entertainment unit (behind/in)  
Under coffee table  
In closing boxes  
CD cabinet  
Behind doors  
In fireplace/grate or up the chimney  
Sewing box/mending/knitting

#### **LAUNDRY / BEDROOMS**

Linen cupboard shelves  
In and behind piles of sheets/towels etc  
In the laundry basket  
In clean or dirty washing  
In any cupboards  
Under and behind the washing machine  
Under and behind the drier  
Rag Bag  
In/under behind all beds  
All wardrobes  
Bookcases  
Piles of clothes/papers  
In/under/behind dressers/drawers etc  
In shoes  
In gumboots  
Kids toy boxes

#### **BATHROOM / DINING ROOM**

Waste paper basket  
Behind toilet  
Vanity cupboards and drawers  
Under table/on dining room chairs  
On chairs  
In/under/behind sideboards etc

#### **PORCHES AND DECKS SHEDS AND GARAGES**

Boxes  
Large pots and under buckets  
In chilly bins Under decks/porches  
Under the house  
On/under outdoor furniture  
All shelves  
All boxes  
Piles of paper, carpet, rags etc  
Woodpile/woodshed  
On roof of garage/shed/house  
In rafters/ceiling of garage

#### **GARDENS/CARS**

Up trees  
Under hedges  
Stuck in hedges  
Stuck in fences  
Asleep in the garden (flower & vegetable)  
In/behind compost bins/rubbish bins  
Under BBQ cover or on BBQ shelves  
Kids Playhouse  
Conservatories  
Shade or green houses  
Bird houses, aviary  
Birdbaths, water features & pools  
In and under cars  
On engine of car (open bonnet)  
In the boot of the car

## NEXT

### Doorknock your immediate neighbours and make a flyer

#### **KNOCK ON THE DOORS OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS**

Start with immediate ones and then widen out to all the houses in your street and neighbouring streets in all directions.

Take a notebook or piece of paper to write down who was home and which houses you need to try again later.

Ask neighbours if you may check (with them present) their locked sheds, cars etc for your pet in case it is locked in somewhere. It is best you do the searching, rather than trust home owners to do so they will not look as thoroughly as you will and others may not even check at all.

Ask immediate neighbours to check under their house, or ideally get permission to do this yourself.

Save time by distributing your flyers at the same time, once you have contacted your immediate neighbours.

Tell all neighbours you are putting a lost sign up on your own fence, so they remember which house you and your pet belong to

Put up a large Lost Pet sign with a photo on your fence or gate

Ask the postie to please keep an eye out, they get around your neighbourhood regularly.

#### **YOUR FLYER SHOULD INCLUDE**

LOST cat, dog etc and breed

Where lost from,  
street and suburb

Day, date and time  
last seen if known.

Colour, Male or female  
and if neutered.

Age

Distinctive markings, description of any collars/ID  
being worn

Name and phone number/s to contact you (include a  
landline and mobile numbers).

If there is a reward, state this.

## **AFTER A DAY OR TWO, you should widen your flyer drop**

If your cat / dog is a pedigree contact the breeder

Enter an instant free lost pet notice on [petsonthenet.co.nz](http://petsonthenet.co.nz) right now Add a picture to your ad as soon as you can. Add a picture [petsonthe net](http://petsonthenet.co.nz) has found a photo increases your chances of success by 450%

Search Pets On The Net site "Found Pets" now. Then continue searching later, as often as you like at no cost.

Ring Animal Control (especially for dogs, although a few also do cats)

Ring the SPCA

Ring all local vets in your area, including after hours vets.

Create and copy your mail box flyers (with photo, preferably in colour) to all other neighbours in street and surrounding streets.

Put a lost pet sign up on your fence

Continue to call SPCA/ Animal Control regularly - preferably daily, but definitely at least once within any seven day period. This is because if a shelter such as the pound or SPCA etc receives your pet, they only have to hold them for seven days. After seven days, they can rehome your pet, or even euthanise your pet. So keep checking!!!! I have had several owners even take photos to the local SPCA and later find their cat had been there all along! I also had an owner check regularly, and leave a flyer and photo with the SPCA and by luck a cat rescue friend called me to say the SPCA were rehoming a Devon Rex, the very cat the owner had been searching for for months!

Continue to run your free ad on [petsonthenet.co.nz](http://petsonthenet.co.nz), and check their found section

Continue ads in local papers for as long as you want to

Continue to drop flyers in your street and widen out the area you drop flyers into and place posters in.

### **FLYERS TO LOCAL SHOPS, DAIRIES AND SUPERMARKETS**

These flyers really should be in colour, with a photo and also laminated. Your pet will be far easier to identify in colour and your laminated flyers will stay up a lot longer on shop windows and train stations etc than a flimsy paper flyer will. Paper flyers quickly get dog eared and rip away in the wind. Lamination will protect your flyer and make sure it serves its purpose whilst it's needed. It could be weeks, so they need to last

### **ADS IN LOCAL PAPERS.**

Book newspaper ads the day your pet goes missing because it can take 2 - 3 days for your ad to be published. Some papers are only weekly! The best time for a lost pet ad to be seen (looked for by the finder) is immediately after the loss, not weeks later. You can get excellent exposure though an ad in your local paper/s

State LOST as your first word, or it can be ambiguous if your ad is for a lost or found pet.

Where missing from ie) suburb or street and suburb

Date your pet went missing/was last seen.

Species and breed ie) Siamese cat or Border Collie dog.

Most cats are no specific breed, in which case "cat" will do.

Coat length ie) Short, medium or long hair

Colour/s

Sex of pet

Your contact name and number (preferably not just a cellphone number) as people may be reluctant to pay a toll call to phone you, or they may have a toll bar.