

**Monroe Police Department
Animal Care and Control Unit**

Finding a Lost Pet - Where to Start

If an Animal Care and Control Officer finds your pet, and your pet is wearing a current license tag on its collar, you will be contacted and told where you can pick up your pet. If another citizen finds your pet, they may use the tag number to contact you.

If your pet is not licensed with the Town, visit Animal Control to search for your pet, located at 447 Purdy Hill Road, Monroe, CT. For free assistance in locating your animal, you may call 203-452-3760.

Finding lost pets...

Although finding a lost animal often seems to depend on luck, it is luck you can help make. There are no guarantees, but there are things people who find their pets do that make a difference.

1) Knock on doors and talk to people in the neighborhood.

Most people walk the streets around their home and call their pet. People who knock on their neighbor's doors and ask if anyone has seen their pet instead of just calling are more likely to find it.

One comment made to Petfinders.com from a June Taggart, responding to survey, most helpful suggestion: "Dog found at neighbors, they weren't home. Dog was up on the deck fearful of climbing back down."

Keep in mind, depending upon the size of the properties, cats will normally roam as far as ten houses in either direction from their home. Cats may be accidentally locked inside of sheds, garages, basements or motor vehicles.

2) Hand out fliers with your pet's picture on them and your phone number.

Fliers need only have a clear photo of the animal and a telephone number that someone will answer or that is hooked to an answering machine. You may want to include a cell number so that you get the call while you are still out looking for the animal, instead of returning home and getting a message.

3) Go to all the local shelters and the government agencies charged with picking up stray and lost animals and look for yourself, at least every other day.

Calling the animal control department or shelter on the phone is not very effective. Your pet may not yet be listed in the records at the front desk, and the way you describe your pet may not be the way a shelter describes your dog. Any animal may become dirty, matted and neglected looking very quickly, and you must visit the shelter, even if your pet was wearing tags when it was lost (collars and tags may have become damaged or removed by someone).

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[Easton Animal Control, Dog Pound, Intersection of Rte 59 and Rte 136, 203-268-9172](#)

[Newtown Animal Control, Dog Pound, 21 Old Farm Rd, 203-426-6900](#)

[Shelton Animal Control, Dog Pound, 20 Riverdale Ave, 203-924-2501](#)

[Trumbull Animal Control, Dog pound, White Plains Rd, 203-452-5088](#)

You will need to go to the shelters at least every other day. Few shelters can keep animals for more than 72 hours. Sometimes it takes more than a few days for a pet to be picked up and brought to a shelter.

It's important to visit all the shelters within 20 miles of where your pet was lost. In many areas stray animals are picked up by a government agency, which holds them for a period and then turns them over to a shelter. If someone took your pet in for a few days hoping you would knock on their door and ask about it, they might later drop your pet off at the shelter that's most convenient for them, rather the one that's closest.

Combining these three things is most effective. **Knocking on doors and handing out copies of your flier to your neighbors and to the staff at all the local shelters is the most effective way of looking for your lost pet.**

Walk the neighborhood, talk to everybody, and leave your phone number.

- Go to each house in the area where your pet was lost and talk to the residents. Write down a description of your lost pet and your phone number and leave it with them. Leave it attached to their door if they are not home.
- Talk to everybody you run across. This includes the postman, paperboy, children, parents waiting at the school bus stop, school crossing guards, neighborhood crime watch groups, garbage pick-up crews, etc. Give them a written description of your pet and your phone number as well.
- Try to get all the neighborhood children involved. Kids are great at finding lost pets!
- Ask everybody if they saw or heard anything unusual in the neighborhood and carefully write down everything they tell you. This could include strange vehicles, work crews, people, or activities. Get detailed descriptions of everything.
- Don't travel alone. Take a friend or family member with you.
- Don't write down your name or address. Because of scam artists and other criminals in our society, it is never a good idea to publicize this information.
- Offer a reward, but don't state the amount.

What to do next...

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Try posting on the INTERNET Social Media sites such as the Follow Companies in the News;

- [Twitter Inc.](#)
- [Pinterest](#)
- [Facebook Inc.](#)
- [LinkedIn Corp.](#)
- [Yahoo, Inc](#)
- [Google, Inc](#)
- [Monroe Patch](#)
- [Petfinder.com](#)

Unfortunately, the next most successful way of finding a lost animal is through checking with the highway departments and the shelters' dead lists. Even if your pet is wearing tags and the highway maintenance department is supposed to send a list to animal control, you should check with them directly.

There are usually several departments that cover roads in your area. You'll need to check **city or town, county and state roads departments, as well as the animal control agencies**. Pictures or a copy of your flier should be left with each department. Again, calling is seldom successful, and actually visiting the department is the best way. You should check back once a week.

Put an ad in the local paper, and in the papers in surrounding areas. Some people only look in the newspaper to locate an animal's owner. Advertising in the paper can also be important to establish you were actively looking for your pet in case someone were to claim it you meant to give it up or didn't want it.

Ask **businesses that people who live in the area are likely to use** to put up a copy of your flier. This includes gas stations, fast food restaurants, taverns and convenience and grocery stores. Ask if you can put a copy of your flier up in the pet **food aisle**. If someone picks up your animal and holds it for a few days hoping you will find them just as your pet did, they will need food.

Contact **local rescue organizations** and give them copies of your flier. People who are afraid animals will be euthanized if they turn them over to the shelter might contact a rescue, and rescue people often go through local shelters looking for animals they can help place in new homes. Ask the shelters if they know of anyone doing rescue in the area, even if they don't work with them.

Give copies of your flier to town or city clerk's offices as well as **veterinarians, groomers, trainers and pet stores** and ask them to put them up.

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If someone finds a dog wearing a license tag, they may contact the town or city clerk's office requesting owner information. The clerk's office may give the information out and not obtain the caller's name or number.

Give copies of your flier to **people that walk their dogs in the area**. They're more likely to spot animals than most people. If you go to the parks early, you may find people who regularly walk their dogs together as an informal group. Dogs on leash notice and want to investigate all kinds of things, even strange birds, lizards and turtles.

Additional search tips may be obtained from www.lostdogsearch.com.

There are several Internet Web sites to post the pet missing, such as with www.petfinder.com and a nonprofit, nationwide alert system at www.missingpets.com.

Lost Pet Related Links

Here are links to more lost pet related Web sites:

www.helplostpet.com is a National Registry for Lost and Found Pets. You can post a FREE picture profile of your lost pet plus links to other pet services.

www.animalshelter.org/shelters/states.asp a state by state listing of most all animal shelters.

www.lostdogsearch.com Tips on how to search for a missing dog.

www.petfinder.com Use the "Search for a Pet" box if you've lost your dog. You will look at adoptable dogs because you might just find that your missing dog has actually been put up for adoption on this site!

www.petdetectivetraining.com Missing Pet Partnership has teamed up with HomeAgain to offer pet owners on-line training to sharpen your lost pet finding skills. See if you have what it takes to become a pet detective!

www.lostpetcards.com A fee-based postcard distribution service that mails postcards of your missing pet to residents in your area.

www.catprofiler.com A fee-based consultant who conducts an in-depth personality profile of your missing cat and works with you to develop a comprehensive search strategy.

www.lostinsnocounty.org A regional site where Snohomish County (Washington) residents can post lost and found pet Ads for free.

www.dogdetective.com A national site where lost dogs can be posted

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NOTE: Connecticut State Statute¹ prohibits posters from being attached to telephone poles, tress, traffic signs, etc. Please use your own wooden or metal stakes for posters and remove them after the animal has been recovered.

PHOTOGRAPHS <mailto:erisko@monroectpolice.com>

¹ Statute **Sec. 23-65. Posting or distributing advertisements. Removing, pruning, injuring or defacing certain trees or shrubs. Restoration. Damages. Regulations. Permit for cutting or removal.** (a) Any person, ... which affixes to a telegraph, telephone, electric light or power pole, or to a tree, shrub, rock or other natural object in any public way or grounds, a playbill, picture, notice, advertisement or other similar thing, or cuts, paints or marks such tree, shrub, rock or other natural object, except for the purpose of protecting it or the public and under a written permit from the town tree warden, the borough tree warden, city forester or Commissioner of Transportation, as the case may be, or, without the consent of the tree warden or of the officer with similar duties, uses climbing spurs for the purpose of climbing any ornamental or shade tree within the limits of any public highway or grounds, shall be fined not more than fifty dollars for each offense.
(<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/pub/Chap451.htm#Sec23-65.htm>)