

What to do if you have lost your cat

You need to take urgent action to increase the Chances of finding your cat.

Contact all the local animal rescues:

0151) 931 1604
(0151) 549 0959
(0151) 734 5830

RSPCA on 0151 486 1706

Visit the RSPCA, Higher Road, Halewood, in person frequently.

Also ring **RSPCA 24 hour advice line 0300 1234 999** as they could have a log of a report of an injured cat. Check phone directory for other useful numbers.

Contact all vets, even those outside of your neighborhood

Your cat may have been injured and someone may have taken him/her to a vet out of your area, eg a vet who has 24 hour facilities. Get numbers from internet and Yellow Pages.

Make a flyer giving very brief details.

The ideal poster would say and include:

Have you seen our cat? She is Black and White and friendly/timid etc.

(Not everyone knows what tortoiseshell or tabby means, so just say brown/grey stripy, or white with ginger and black markings, etc.)

- Include a photo.
- Please check your garage, shed, greenhouse.
- Family very upset.
- Reward for Information, as this may encourage people to ring you.
- Please telephone ... Give more than one phone number where you can be reached.

Garston Animal Rescue

Photocopy as many flyers/posters as possible, and ask vets, libraries, shops, garden centers, hairdressers, cafes, pubs, stations, and everywhere you can think of, to put one up. Put on lamp-posts, bus shelters, park railings, building site hoardings. If possible get the ones intended for outdoors laminated as the rain will quickly destroy them.

Cover as wide an area as possible with your posters.

Deliver your flyers door-to-door. He/she may have crossed a main road so get enough copies to do everywhere. Alert your neighbors. Talk to people as you're going round. Keep a supply of flyers on you and give one to anyone sympathetic.

Walk round your locality calling your cat's name taking with you a supply of cat biscuits. As you are walking round, drop a few biscuits under hedges, on garden walls, down back alleys, effectively leaving a little trail back to your house. Don't put too many out, as they will go soggy if it rains and someone could slip.

Create a scent trail to your home by taking a tea towel, bit of cloth or bedding, t-shirt, socks, any odds and ends, and cut into small pieces. Drop trails of this as you go round the area. This is because any item from your home has a distinct and familiar scent, and will be very reassuring to your cat if he/she is lost/frightened, and will help him to find her way home again. Drop bits in parks under bushes, on walls, in alleyways, etc.

Put out trails of used litter from your cat's tray. If you have another cat put out trails of their used litter to help your lost cat find his/her way home. Put your lost cat's litter tray in the garden as scent may help him/her get back home.

If possible, try to go round everywhere around midnight, or six in the morning, when it is very quiet, and less traffic is about, calling your cat's name. Cats can become trapped in sheds/greenhouses/garages and will be frightened, so may not cry back to you when it is noisy, but when it is quiet they may respond. The quieter the better. Once a lost cat was trapped in a greenhouse, and her owners went past several times calling her, and it was only when they went during the early hours that she cried back to them, and they got her back safely. Also, your voice will travel further at night so there's a better chance she will hear you. Let someone know if you are going out late or take someone with you.

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A frightened cat may run a long way to try and find safety so try to cover as large an area as possible and renew the biscuit trails (they may get eaten by another hungry cat). Also continue to put out your trails of fabric, odd socks, etc, as the rain will wash away some of the distinctive scent. Go round by bike if you have one as you will cover a greater area and more quickly in comparison with walking around, and your cat may pick up on its familiar scent.

Check derelict houses and closed down shops in case he/she has wandered in.

Ask around, talk to everyone. Ask your postman, milkman, **or anyone**, if they would drop off some of your flyers while they're doing their rounds. Try the local Community Police. Check the adverts in local shops, the vets, local free paper and Echo in case someone has found her. Ring Council (Street Cleansing) 233 3001 just in case your cat has been found on the road.

Keep a dish of fresh food and a cardboard box by your front door in case he/she comes back while you're not at home.

See if the local free newspaper can be interested in doing a feature. **Pay to have adverts** in the Liverpool Echo. If possible, include a recent photo of your cat.

If you can, get a friend or relative to help you. Make out a plan so you don't duplicate efforts.

Remember – the more publicity, the better. Try everywhere and everything, and keep trying – your cat is relying on you.

Why do cats become lost? Sometimes cats are scared by traffic, fireworks or hooligans and in their panic lose their way. Un-neutered cats will stray to find a mate and risk their lives crossing main roads. This leads to the birth of homeless kittens, 1000's of whom are destroyed every week because there are not enough homes. Always get your cat neutered. Keep an up-to-date photo – a picture says much more than a written description.

Get your cat micro-chipped.

If you can think of anything to improve this Advice Sheet we welcome your ideas. Anything at all to help lost dogs to be returned home, safe and sound. Thank you.