

## What to do if you have lost your dog

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

### Contact all the local animal rescues:

(0151) 931 1604,  
(0151) 549 0959

**Dogs' Trust** (0151) 480 0660.

Ring local **Dog Warden** via Liverpool City Council. 0151 233 3001 out of hours 0845 241 7253.

Follow the guidance on the Animal Wardens website at [www.animalswardens.co.uk](http://www.animalswardens.co.uk).

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

### Contact all vets, even those outside of your neighborhood

Your dog 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.

**Ring Police** and find out which, if any, police stations take in dogs prior to sending to Animal Wardens. Call at every station which does accept dogs.

## Garston Animal Rescue

**Make a flyer** giving very brief details.

The ideal poster would say and include:

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

(Not everyone knows what brindle means, so just say brown/grey stripy, etc.)

- Include a photo.
- 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.

**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.

**Go round your locality** calling your dog's name taking with you a supply of dog biscuits. As you are going 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. Increase the area you cover as your dog may be further than you think.

**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 dog 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.

## Garston Animal Rescue

**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 dog's name.** Dogs when lost can be frightened, and so may not respond to you when it is noisy. The quieter the better. Also the sound of your voice and/or whistle will travel further when it is quiet.

**If your dog was lost in an unfamiliar area** put out bits of food and familiar items in area where lost. This is to encourage him/her to stay in the area where lost. So you need to keep going back to that area. And if your dog is timid, especially go back there at quiet times when your dog is more likely to come out of hiding, and because your voice travels a greater distance at night when it is quiet. If possible virtually camp out in the area, constantly calling his or her name.

**A frightened dog may run a long way to try and find familiarity/safety so try to cover as large an area as possible** and renew the biscuit trails (they may get eaten by another hungry animal). 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 possible as you will cover a far greater area and more quickly in comparison with walking around, and your dog may pick up on the familiar scent.

**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 dog has been found on the road.

**Check derelict houses** and building sites in case he/she has wandered in.

**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 dog.

**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 dog is relying on you.**

## Garston Animal Rescue

**Why do dogs become lost?** Sometimes dogs are spooked by sudden noises, fireworks or hooligans and in their panic blindly run off. Keep an up-to-date photo – a picture says much more than a written description.

### **Get your dog 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.*