

The Animal Doctors of OC



LOST PET ACTION PLAN

AT THE ANIMAL DOCTORS OF ORANGE COUNTY, WE KNOW THE THOUGHT OF LOSING YOUR PET IS OVERWHELMING. TAKE A BREATH. YOU ARE NOT ALONE, AND THERE ARE CLEAR STEPS YOU CAN TAKE RIGHT AWAY TO HELP BRING THEM HOME SAFELY.

ACT IMMEDIATELY (FIRST 30 MIN)

- Search your home thoroughly
 - Check closets, under beds, garages, laundry rooms, and small hiding spaces
- Go outside and call their name calmly
 - Bring treats, a favorite toy, or food
- Ask neighbors right away
 - The sooner people know, the better
- For cats:
 - Stay close to home, check hiding spots, bushes, and quiet areas
 - Most cats do not travel far

EXPAND YOUR SEARCH (FIRST FEW HOURS)

- Walk or drive your neighborhood slowly
- Call your pet's name in a calm, familiar tone
- Bring something that smells like home
 - (blanket, bed, your clothing)
- Search at different times of day
 - Early morning and late evening are often best

ALERT YOUR COMMUNITY (WITHIN 24 HOURS)

- Post on:
 - Nextdoor
 - Local Facebook groups
 - PawBoost
 - Ring Neighbors app
- Contact:
 - Local animal shelters
 - Nearby veterinary hospitals
 - Animal control
- File a "lost pet" report with OC Animal Care call: 714-935-6848

CREATE EFFECTIVE FLYERS

- Include:
 - Clear, recent photo
 - Pet's name
 - (optional if shy)
 - Your phone number
 - Cross streets or general area
 - "DO NOT CHASE" if your pet is nervous
- Post at:
 - Intersections
 - Parks
 - Pet stores
 - Community boards

USE TECH

- Microchip (RFID):
 - Make sure your contact information is up to date
 - This is the most reliable way for shelters and vets to identify your pet
- GPS Trackers:
 - Provide real-time location and are helpful for pets who roam
- AirTags/Bluetooth Trackers:
 - Can help in populated areas but rely on nearby devices and are not true GPS

Using a combination of these tools offers the most protection and peace of mind

KEEP CHECKING & FOLLOW UP

- Visit shelters in person when possible
- Check lost and found listings daily
- Respond quickly to any sightings

DON'T GIVE UP

Pets are often found days, weeks, or even months later. Staying consistent and visible in your search makes a difference.

93%

Microchipped dogs returned to their owners

30+
DAYS

Many pets found more than a month after going missing

1 IN 3

Pets will go missing at some point in their lifetime