



Advice from Milly's Search, Trap and Rescue Inc.

www.millysstar.org.au

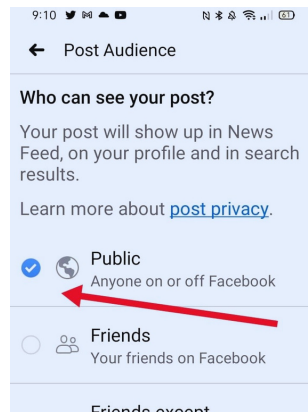
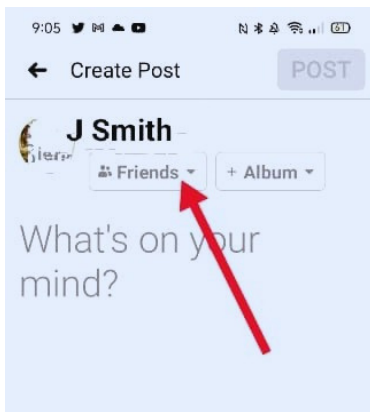
Lost Dog

It's a shock to lose your pet.

But it helps to have a process to follow.

If lost from home, check everywhere. Inside and out first. Before you begin a wide search to find a lost dog, make sure they're actually gone. Your dog may be trapped somewhere inside your home, garage, yard shed, or elsewhere on your property. Give a thorough search, and consider carrying some of your dog's favorite treats or toys with you.

- 1. Place a message** on your own facebook, make it available to the public. Create a post. Under your name select (public). Share/Post on as many lost and found facebook local sites that you can. Also post on other local community facebook sites. Ask people to share your post.



Then post.

You can then share your post by clicking on share and post to groups you belong to or you can click on the dots and select copy link and paste that link into Lost and Found groups and on other local community pages. The more the better.

Make your post as detailed as possible. Here's a list of things you could include in your post.

- Age of pet
 - Date they went missing
 - State whether they are microchipped (please don't post the microchip number though)
 - Location where your pet was last seen (include suburb, time, date).
 - Include a photo or photos on your post. Recent photos clearly showing your dog.
 - Any other information that you think is important .
- **** You can keep your listing active by following these simple steps. Keeping your post active often is very important so it remains in people's minds and also alerts people who have not viewed it before.

- Edit and Comment on your post with the latest sighting or information relevant to your post.
- Comment - still missing and the date in messages each day to help bring your post to the top.
- It's handy to update/edit the original post (3 dots on right) when you have found your pet so people reading the post do not have to go through all the messages to see the latest updates.



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2. Contact all local vets and pounds and leave a description of your lost pet along with your contact details so if a finder surrenders your pet they can contact you immediately.



3. If you know they were **lost recently**. Go for a drive around. Head the direction you might normally take your dog for a walk.

4. We would recommend putting **posters up**, if you haven't found your dog after a few hours or by the next day. Place them around the area where your lost pet went missing and a contact phone number plus a clear photo. Also place more posters in strategic places of high volume vehicle and foot traffic areas, at eye height on poles further away from the area your dog went missing.

Place posters in plastic sleeves with the opening at the bottom to protect it from the weather. Use large clear plastic packing tape to wrap around your poster and poles.

(Example Poster samples, [click here](#)).



Poster advice. You can print at home or take to [OfficeWorks](#) to print.

You can use our templates (coming soon) [or look at the examples here](#), to get an idea on what they need to say and how they could look. Be sure to include:

- A recent and clear photo showing the whole pet
- Sex and approximate age
- Date lost
- Location last seen
- Your phone number



5. Doorknock your area and ask neighbours to check their properties. Particularly if your lost pet is scared or skittish they could be hiding in a neighbour's shed, garage, backyard etc. Consider doing letterbox fliers.



6. Hopefully your dog is **microchipped** and the contact details are up to date. **This is very important.** If your dog is found and taken to the vet or pound, they can scan it and contact you immediately. If your dog is microchipped and you are not sure if the contact details are up to date.

You can update your contact details, report your pet missing or claim your existing pet through the NSW Pet Registry. <https://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au/#/reportfoundpet>

(if your dog is not microchipped, please consider doing so when they are found).



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8. Searching for your dog

What do you know about your dog? Write it down to help you.

Examples:

Was my dog lost before, if yes, how were they found?

Does my dog like balls, squeaky toys, other dogs, water (ie rivers, oceans).

Does your dog have another dog at home or who they might play with?

What food is your dog attracted to, what's its favourite food?

Do they like all people, or children or prefer men or women? (If they like children they might head for places they can hear children playing).

Knowing and writing down some of these things could help you and others in your search for your lost dog.

9. A good time to search.

Every dog is different. When dogs are lost, they can be very anxious, but often they calm down enough and will find a quiet, safe spot to hide. Their natural instincts could then make them more active and break cover during quieter times, such as at night time, dawn or dusk. So going out at night to search when it's quiet can be very helpful.

10. What not to do.

Don't chase your dog. Your dog could be on flight instincts if it is an anxious dog or if it has been lost for a while (especially 24 hours or more). Or it might think it's a game and keep running. Either way, a running dog is a danger on the roads.

IMPORTANT to ask the public to not chase your dog too.

If you or someone else finds your dog and it appears as if the dog might move away, don't go after the dog. Sit down straight away, Cough, pretend you're eating, rustle a packet, play with a toy, or move very slowly and low. In a non threatening way.

11. Place food and your unwashed clothing and dogs bedding items in the area where he/she got lost or was sighted.

Dogs rely on their sense of smell, much more than sight and sound, especially when lost. They are very good at following scents from a long distance, will search out familiar smells and track their own scent.

Dogs can often go back to their own home, or where they found refuge when first lost. Or if you took them for a walk, and they became lost, they could go back to where your car was parked or along the trail you use to go to and from home.