

What do I do if I've lost my cat?

When you lose your cat, you are devastated. It's easy to jump to the worst conclusions possible. The first thing to do is to get out of this mindset. A lost cat doesn't mean that hope is also lost. It just means you need to start looking right now and in the right ways.



Indoor Cats

Actively Looking should be your first priority.

Your cat has left the safety of a home and is now displaced in a highly-unknown territory and is likely very scared. This means that your cat will try to find the best hiding place possible. You need to actively look in all the places you would never think. Dig inside bushes and the nooks in your garage. Look up into the trees, and check your neighbors' yards. Cats are small, and they will hide in the smallest places possible to escape danger.

Indoor/Outdoor Cats

Actively looking should be your first priority.

These cats are familiar with the immediate outdoor territory. However, they can become lost if they've been chased away by another animal or have entered into unknown territory in a different way (shooed away by a neighbor or climbed a new tree and can't get down). Some cats possess the ability to find their way home after days and even months, so if your cat is gone for a few days, please don't lose hope or stop looking. On the other hand, there are also cats, who Don't possess the ability to find their way home or are too afraid to try. These cats will hide in small places and need to be searched for in the same ways we search for indoor-only cats.

Quick Tips

ACTIVELY LOOK

It can be tempting to hang lots of signs in your neighborhood right away. However, you must actively look first. Hanging signs is not be beneficial for cats, who are hiding in fear – nobody will see them. After you've thoroughly searched, talk to your neighbors, and create posters for the immediate area. Cats are usually found within a five-house radius of the original territory.

SET HUMANE TRAPS

Humane traps can be purchased or rented from hardware stores, veterinary clinics, animal control units, and animal shelters.

- Add your cat's favorite food to the back of the trap.
- Watch from a distance. If you're too close, your cat will see you as a predator and will not leave the hiding spot.
- Don't expect your cat to meow or come when called. Scared cats are silent and won't run toward a perceived threat. This does not mean your cat stopped loving you: it means they are in fight-or-flight mode.

ASK FOR HELP

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Contact family, friends, and neighbors. There is strength in numbers.



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 Animal Rights Coalition

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