



This fact sheet provides useful tips when searching for a lost furry friend. Visiting local animal shelters and pounds in person is the first step.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

Many people who find lost pets may not hand them into local council or animal shelters immediately. It may take them a few weeks or even a few months. Therefore, you should continue to visit pounds and animal shelters weekly for at least three months.

#### TIP:

A letter box drop is particularly useful for finding lost cats.

#### PHYSICALLY CHECK LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS AND POUNDS

Due to the large number of dogs and cats at pounds and animal shelters like The Lost Dogs' Home, we strongly recommended that you physically visit the Home and other shelters and pounds if you have lost your pet.

It is also possible that your pet will be taken to an animal shelter by a member of the public. This is another reason you should visit shelters and pounds in person.

#### CHECK LOCAL AND SURROUNDING COUNCILS

Check the area where your pet was lost. Phone your local council and ask where animals are taken when collected by local council rangers. Councils either have their own holding pens or they use a major animal shelter as their pound. Ask for the address and their visiting hours so you can personally check to see if your pet is there.

**Remember: you can recognise your pet more easily than staff at shelters and pounds.**

#### CONDUCT A NEIGHBOURHOOD SEARCH

Conduct a thorough and wide search of the area around where your pet was last seen.

Your search should include:

- Door knocking
- A letter box drop
- Posting fliers in prominent places (for example; shop windows, trees, power poles etc.)

**Information to include on a flier:**

- A photograph of your pet
- Detailed description of your pet including name, age, breed colour, sex and any distinguishing characteristics
- The date it went missing
- The area it went missing in
- Your name and contact number/s.

#### OTHER SUGGESTED METHODS OF ENQUIRY

##### Vet Clinics

Check the locality guide in the yellow pages and phone all local vets to check if your pet has been taken there.

##### Newspapers

Advertise and check in all local and major newspapers.

**Online**

Many shelters have websites that details pets that have been lost/ found. Also there are groups on Facebook which post lost/found animals. A couple of helpful sites include:

- doglost.com.au
- lostcat.com.au

**Remember: Collars and tags can come off or may be removed deliberately. You should personally visit shelters and pounds as many animals are impounded with their ID missing.**

**MICROCHIPPING**

Microchipping is normally a reliable and permanent form of identification for

your pet. Staff at pounds and shelters make every effort to check all strays admitted for microchip identification. By law, all cats and dogs must be microchipped before being sold. This includes sales from registered breeders, animal shelters, pet shops and private homes. This is not for animals that are advertised as 'free to a good home'. The Lost Dogs' Home offers a microchipping service.

All council pounds and animal shelters have microchip scanning equipment. You should ensure your contact details are always kept up to date with your microchip agency.

Occasionally, microchips can move around the animal's body and might not always

be picked up by a scanner. If your pet is microchipped, you should have your pet regularly checked to see if the chip can be properly scanned.

**Remember: The 'Φ' symbol in the ear indicates that the animal has been desexed, and should not be mistaken for a unique form of identification. It is important to note, that tattoos do fade over time and are sometimes difficult to read.**

Point of Contact	Contact Details	Melways Ref	Lost pet enquiry hours
<b>The Lost Dogs' Home</b> 2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne, VIC	T: 03 9329 2755 F: 03 9326 5293 E: info@dogshome.com	2A C7 43 B4	Mon -Thurs: 10:00am - 6:15pm Fri: 10:00am - 4:45pm Sat: 9:00am - 3:30pm Sun: 9:00am - 12:30pm
<b>South Eastern Pound Services</b> 920 Thompsons Road, Cranbourne West, VIC	T: 03 9702 8055 F: 03 9702 8655 E: info@dogshome.com	128 K8	Mon - Fri: 10:00am - 6:00pm Sat - Sun: 9:00am - 1:00pm
<b>National Pet Register</b> 2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne, VIC	T: 1300 734 738 F: 1300 2 734 738 E: info@petregister.com.au	2A C7 43 B4	24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
<b>Lort Smith Animal Hospital</b> 24 Villiers Street, North Melbourne, VIC	T: 03 9321 7260 (lost dogs) T: 03 9321 7240 (lost cats) F: 03 9329 5347	43 E4	Mon-Sun: 9:30am - 3:30pm
<b>RSPCA (Victoria - Burwood)</b> 3 Burwood Highway, Burwood East, VIC	T: 03 9224 2222 F: 03 9221 0071	61 G6	Mon - Sun: 9:00am - 5:00pm
<b>RSPCA (Victoria - Epping)</b> 335 O'Herns Road, Epping, VIC	T: 03 9408 7356	181 C8	Mon - Sat: 10.00am - 3.30pm Sun: 9.00am - 11.30am
<b>Australia Animal Protections Society</b> 10 Homeleigh Road, Keysborough, VIC	T: 03 9798 8415 / 03 9798 8044 F: 03 9769 0317	94 B1	Mon - Sat: 10:00am - 3:30pm Sun & public holidays: 11:00am - 3:00pm
<b>Blue Cross Animal Society</b> 26 Homestead Road, Wonga Park, VIC	T: 03 9722 1265 F: 03 9722 1265	24 J12	Mon: Closed Tues - Sun: 11:00am - 3:30pm (visit) Tues - Sun: 9:00am - 4:00pm (phone)
<b>Animal Aid</b> 35 Killara Road, Coldstream, VIC	T: 03 9739 0300 F: 03 9739 0400 E: enquiries@animalaid.org.au	281 F7	Mon - Sun: 9:00am - 5:00pm
<b>RSPCA (Peninsula)</b> 1030 Robinsons Road, Pearcedale, VIC	T: 03 5978 9000 F: 03 5978 7255	141 C3	Mon - Sun: 9:00am - 4:00pm (visit) Mon - Sun: 9:00am - 5:00pm (phone)
<b>Geelong Animal Welfare Society</b> 325 Portarlington Road, Moolap, VIC	T: 03 5248 2091 F: 03 5248 1338 E: admin@gaws.org.au	20 G4	Mon - Sun: 10:00am - 4:00pm Daylight Saving extended hours: Tues & Thurs: 10:00am - 6:00pm
<b>Cat Protection Society</b> 200 Elder Street, Greensborough, VIC	T: 03 9434 7155 F: 03 9432 0472	20 J6	Mon - Fri: 10:00am - 4:00pm Sat - Sun: 11:00am - 2:00pm

**The Lost Dogs' Home**

2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

**Telephone** 03 9329 2755  
**Fax** 03 9326 5293

info@dogshome.com  
www.dogshome.com  
Twitter: lostdogshome  
Facebook: lostdogshome

Since our official opening in 1913, we have been a voice for animals without owners caring for more than 25,000 cats and dogs each year. Pioneers for fair animal laws, we continue to work on the front line to reduce the number of lost, abandoned and stray cats and dogs.

We rely on public support to run services and programs, including; proactive adoption, foster care and behaviour rehabilitation programs, responsible pet ownership education and provide discounted microchipping through National Pet Register.