

If You Lose Your Dog...

1. **Act Quickly!** Begin your search as soon as you realize your dog is missing.
2. **Get Help!** Call local police, Animal Control Officers, shelters, and veterinary hospitals immediately! People frequently call these places when they find a lost animal because the town is required to pick up stray dogs. Several towns have their own holding facility for stray animals. According to New Hampshire law, stray dogs must be held at least seven days.

Contact the Monadnock Humane Society Immediately!

Leave a detailed description of your dog and your telephone number with a staff member (or on our voicemail system) so we can check to see if your dog has been brought in or been found. Your dog's description will be kept on file for three months. *Visit MHS in person and bring a poster with a photograph of your pet.* Even with the best written description, it can sometimes be very difficult to correctly identify a dog without a photo.



Call neighboring animal shelters, police departments, and veterinary hospitals. It is not uncommon for animals to be found miles from where they were lost.

3. **Get the Word Out.** Signs and posters are very effective tools for finding lost animals. Fill in the poster included in this packet and bring it to MHS for up to 20 free copies (or make your own). Include a clear description of your dog and don't forget to bring a color photo. Post the signs at grocery and convenience stores, schools, community centers, town hall, libraries, post offices, veterinary offices, traffic intersections, and neighborhood businesses. Provide your police department with a copy, too.
4. **Search the Neighborhood.** Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. Early morning and evening are the best times to look for lost pets. Ask mail carriers and delivery people to be on the lookout. Distribute the posters door-to-door. Ask neighbors to check garages or storage sheds where your dog might have been accidentally shut in.
5. **Advertise.** Place ads in newspapers and with radio stations immediately; monitor the "Found" ads in local newspapers.
6. **Offer a Reward.** Offer a reward on your posters and ads as an incentive for people to become involved. Be cautious before giving money to anyone claiming to know the whereabouts of your pet.
7. **Don't Give Up!** Don't stop searching. Animals that have been lost for months have been reunited with their owners. Keep visiting your shelter and checking with area businesses where you have placed signs.

Prevention Is the Best Defense!!

Your pet has a better chance of being reunited with you if she always wears a collar and ID tag with current information AND if you make sure you make sure that 24-Petwatch has your up-to-date contact information to match with your pet's microchip. Keep a current photo handy for a poster.



□ Monadnock Humane Society, 101 West Swanzey Rd., Swanzey, NH 03446 □ (603) 352-9011