

## **WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET IS LOST**

1. Start searching for your pet immediately. Pets will usually hang around the area where they disappeared for 12-24 hours.
2. Please contact FOHA by posting on Facebook: FOHA\_VA or Instagram: #foha\_va. You can call 703-385-0224 and leave a message, and you can email [foha\\_info@foha.org](mailto:foha_info@foha.org)
3. Put up "Lost Pet" signs in your neighborhood. Use the template to create a PDF flyer using a photo and a description <http://www.petbond.com/flyerentry.php>
4. Post at intersections where cars will need to slow down, put signs up in frequently visited sites such as shopping centers, grocery stores, etc.
5. Post on Social Media:
  - a. Lost & Found Dogs-DC Metro Area
  - b. Lost Dogs Virginia
  - c. FOHA Facebook page
  - d. #lostdogs
6. Search the neighborhood when it's quiet, either in the early morning or evening hours. Walk slowly and call to your pet, then quietly listen for any response. A trick is to record the sound of your electric can opener and play it while searching or have a box of food with you and shake it as you search.
7. When canvassing the neighborhood, you should always have the dog's favorite treats on hand in case you need to coax him to you.
8. Enlist the help of neighbors and friends.
9. CALL as soon as your pet is lost and leave a "Lost Pet Report" with all area shelters:

<b>Alexandria City</b>	703-838-4774
<b>Arlington Co.</b>	703-931-9241
<b>Fairfax Co.</b>	703-830-1100
<b>Fairfax City</b>	703-385-7919
<b>Prince William Co.</b>	703-792-6465
<b>Loudoun Co.</b>	703-777-0406 (Eastern Loudoun) 540-882-3211 (Western Loudoun)
<b>Prince Georges Co.</b>	301-499-8300
<b>Montgomery Co.</b>	240-773-5960
<b>Howard Co.</b>	410-313-2780
<b>Dist. of Columbia</b>	202-576-6664 (New York Ave) 202-234-8626 (Georgia Ave)

10. Call/visit the shelters regularly until your pet is found. People will often feed a stray animal for a while hoping it will find its way home. Weeks may pass before a "found pet" is reported or brought in to a shelter.
11. Go door to door in your neighborhood to see if anyone has seen your pet. Also ask your newspaper delivery person and your mail person.
12. Look in people's yards and around outside buildings. The dog could be hiding behind a shed, etc. Also, look around areas where garbage is stored.
13. Contact area veterinary offices and submit a "Lost Pet" report.
14. Put food and water out. The pet may find his way home when he becomes thirsty or hungry.
15. Remain calm. Your dog probably knows how to survive on his own for longer than you think.
16. Keep track of where you called, so that you do not duplicate your effort. Also, when the dog is found, please contact the shelters and vet offices and let them know.

NOTE: Most of this information taken from [www.hart90.org](http://www.hart90.org) website .