

Tips for Finding a Lost Cat

Stay Calm and Gather Resources Quickly to Find Your Furry Baby!

1 Search Inside and Outside - quadruple check everywhere!



Check everywhere INDOORS: cats are masters of hiding and can tuck themselves into extremely small spaces. Check the closets, under and behind washing machines and other appliances, under beds and furniture, cabinets, and really anywhere they could squeeze into an opening. Retrace your steps and try to remember the last time you saw your kitty to check those areas first. Make sure to re-check everywhere, and rattle a favorite toy, or crinkle a bag of treats to show them you have good stuff if they come out of hiding.

Check the Neighborhood + 2 mile radius:

Check garages, vehicles, crawlspaces, sheds, under decks and porches, and ask your neighbors to help look. Many times when kitties get out, they run to the first space where they can easily hide. Shake a bag of yummy treats, or clink a spoon on the side of a can or dish to signal tasty food is awaiting them. Kitties will be very scared in unfamiliar territory, so the more things you can do to show them you have good stuff for them, the better the chances they will uncover themselves from their hiding spot. Make sure to take a cat carrier and a flashlight with you to check dark corners and have a way to take your kitty home when you find them.

2 Set up stations to attract your kitty back home



Set up a crate or humane trap with blankets from home, food and water outdoors
STRONG SCENTS are enticing!

- Smelly tuna or other very attractive food to entice them to come back home.
- Make sure the crate has water and a blanket that smells like them so they come to a scent they recognize. Set up a few close locations – front and back yard, plus a neighbor's garage or yard.
- Also leave a litter box out to also waft their scent out to attract them.
- Crack a window in their favorite room at home so they smell their scent to draw them back
- Set up a trail camera on your stations to monitor activity and send you a motion alert

3 Spread the Word!



Make a LOST CAT flyer and POST POST POST!

- Make sure it has all your kitty's info, and your info including your phone number!

Canvas your neighborhood PLUS a 2-mile radius from where your kitty went missing.

Post printed copies in the neighborhood and leave them at your neighbors' houses. Leave them in coffee shops, supermarkets, vet offices, police stations, and any other public shops.

- **Lost Cats of Wisconsin** have free resources like flyer templates and free listing services <https://www.facebook.com/LostCatsOfWisconsin/>
- **PawBoost** free service gives you a flyer template, FB and Lost Post, and Rescue Squad alert <https://www.pawboost.com/site/how-it-works>
- **PetcoLove** also has a fast free posting service <https://lost.petcolove.org/>
- **Post on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter**, and your local neighborhood **listserv** or email group
- **Craig's List** <https://milwaukee.craigslist.org/search/laf?query=cat>
- **Nextdoor** https://help.nextdoor.com/s/article/Best-practices-Lost-pets?language=en_US
- **Tabby Tracker** <https://www.tabbytracker.com/lost-cats-Wisconsin.php>
- **Contact MADACC** <http://madacc.org/lost-found/> (or the Animal Control Service in your area)
- **Contact Wi Humane Society** <https://www.wihumane.org/strays/tips-for-finding-lost-animals->

4 Don't give up hope!

Stay focused, keep fresh food and water ready, keep the crate prepped, and keep calling to them so they can hear your voice and come to safety.