

HOW TO FIND A LOST CAT

Advice from a Pet Detective



By Kim Freeman, Lost Cat Finder

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Freeman, Kim

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Dedication

To Mister Purr

This book is dedicated to my beloved companion of 14 years, Mister Purr and his immense love, gentle wisdom, loving head butts, winks and blinks, and the memory of his deep, restorative purr. He is gone now, but I carry on in his spirit, in his name.



Mister Purr (1996 – 2010)

He was loved by many, and known by many names, including the Potato, Poppin Fresh, Tubby Rabbit, Snack Macaque, Rabbit's Foot, The Scrambled Egg, Badcat, and The Snuggler.

When he did not come home one day, I knew something was wrong. He always stayed close to home, following me around as I did barn chores. He never went far from his dinner bowl.

His disappearance put every technique I'd learned in my Missing Pet training to the test. Had I not felt the stress and panic firsthand, I may never have gone on to help others with lost cat cases. Thank you for the gift you gave me every day, Mister Purr. I love you and miss you.

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Author's Note

I've dedicated my life to finding lost cats. This is all I do. It is not only a labor of love, it is also my only income.

Please respect my intellectual property and do not loan, share or paraphrase these materials. The small income from these books is what allows me to keep doing this work and helping cats and their people.

If you hear of someone with a lost cat, kindly direct them to my website to order their own copy of these materials. Please allow me to help them rather than trying to advise them yourself. Sometimes a little information can be the wrong information.

PTThank you for understanding, and best wishes in your search!

Kim Freeman

Lost Cat Recovery

www.lostcatfinder.com

How to Find Your Lost Cat

THE BIG PICTURE

First, try to take a deep breath to focus yourself and read these material before any more physical searching. This can prevent you from making the typical mistakes and pushing your cat farther away.

The information you're about to read can prevent days of heartbreaking setbacks.

For access to the “show & tell” companion video portion of, “How to Find a Lost Cat” click this link to watch the [video](#) online.

As you may have seen in the happy reunion stories on my Facebook page (visit & LIKE) it often takes a combination of time, diligence, and dedication to find a lost cat. Searching for a missing cat is hard work and emotionally stressful-- for both you and the kitty. You may have trouble sleeping, eating, working. Meanwhile, your cat may face potential injury, death or starvation.

Your cat is counting on you to find him; count on me and my guidance to do it.

I've been in your position, and I remember. I remember how difficult it is to stay calm and logical when your beloved buddy is missing. The grief and worry can be so overwhelming; it's hard to think straight, much less make a plan.

That's why I am here to help with facts, technique, steps and strategies.

First tip: DO NOT waste valuable time driving or running around calling in blind panic. Try to stay focused and positive. Avoid the typical advice that well-meaning friends offer. There are too many myths about finding lost cats that can wreck your chances of a reunion.

The most harmful search tips often come from people who've never lost a cat. Things like leaving food out, walking the block calling and shaking treats, ineffective little flyers, putting used kitty litter outside. All of these are outdated human thinking. Rarely do any of them help. Most cause problems.

Every hour counts when a cat is missing. Use them wisely.

The advice here is based on years of research in the science of lost cat behavior over thousands of lost cat cases—condensed and organized so you can formulate a plan that’s right for your cat. There is no on-size fits all cookie cutter method.

Understanding the right way to search for your cat will make all the difference in whether you find them.

The first 48 hours are important. If you’ve already checked every nook, cranny and crevice within your house and yard, read this guide before running out in a panic to search.

TAKE NOTES

Skimming a booklet of info may be hard to take in when you’re already stressed. If you find a few points repeated, it is because they bear repeating.

Consider making notes as you go. Grab a pen now or underline the items that apply to your situation. Some advice is specific for indoor cats, while some is more geared to outdoor access cats who vanished.

If you want custom advice on your specific cat and situation, I do offer personal advice which include a complete analysis of your cat, circumstances, and a strategy plan based on your geography with targeted search maps, my “persuasion psychology” lost cat poster and flyers, targeted search maps, plus special tips and tricks not covered based on your situation.

To get my advice on your case after reading this book, send me your key facts in a Lost Cat Profile which is available on [this page](http://www.lostcatfinder.com/lost-cat-report---profile-form) of my website: <http://www.lostcatfinder.com/lost-cat-report---profile-form>.

My only condition is that you at least skim this booklet and watch half the [video](#) tutorial before you book a session. You are doing yourself, me and your cat a disservice if you have not learned about thresholds, scout systems, alerts, tools and dangers first.

Now, let’s get started.

PART 1

THINK LIKE YOUR CAT

THINK LIKE A CAT

Before you go searching the neighborhood, take a deep breath. Stand at the escape door. Imagine you are 10 inches tall and deaf.

Now, from your cat's perspective, where is the closest place that offers quiet and cover? Which direction offers more shade and concealment? Which yards are not already claimed by other cats or dogs? If your cat goes out often, which is their usual direction of travel?

Next, think back to anything that happened just before your cat's disappearance. Were there any unusual events or noises? Has anything around the house changed? Were there visitors? Delivery or service vehicles? Loud noises? Furniture moved?

Not all missing cats are lost. Some are upset by a new pet, guest or baby, and intentionally leave to find somewhere more peaceful. Others are pushed out by a bully cat, a loose dog or new one guarding a fence perimeter, no longer allowing your cat to return as usual.

MAKE IT SAFE FOR YOUR CAT TO COME BACK

One simple and successful method for recovering any cat is simply leaving the exact door they left from standing open from 8pm to 8am so they can return under the safety of darkness.

Sequester all other pets; turn out all lights including porch (cats feel safer in the dark) and put fresh food ONLY in your cat's usual eating-place.

During the day, while you're out searching, have someone stay at home with the door wide open. Why? You or a landscaper may flush your cat

out of hiding, causing them to make a run for home. You want them to be able to get in!

Try this and your cat may be sitting at home waiting when you return from searching! If you can't leave the escape door open, set up a wildlife camera ([recommended models here](#)) to see if your cat tries to return day or night.

If you're concerned about leaving a door open, add a safety chain with two additional links (as shown in my [video](#)) or set up a \$20 wireless [BH Motion Alert](#) to ring an alert in your bedroom if there is any movement near the door.

THE THRESHOLD PERIOD

Most escaped indoor cats will hide frozen in silence, sometimes for days. The time it takes for them to break cover is called the Threshold Period. While some cats take only a few days to reach their threshold, **the MAJORITY wait 10 to 14 days**. A skittish cat may take 17 days or longer, so don't be discouraged and give up too soon. Because displaced cats hide in silence, your recovery technique should be based on your particular cat's personality.



DO NOT LEAVE FOOD OUT

(unless it's in a humane trap or in front of a [wildlife camera](#).)

LOST CAT BEHAVIOR

All cats behave differently in new territory--especially if scared or injured. Just because your cat is friendly and approaches people on his home turf does not mean he will meow or show himself now--to you or anyone else.

A cat's temperament can range from bold and friendly to skittish and fearful. These personality types influence how far they will travel and their reaction to humans after time away from home. Some cats revert to feral "survival-mode" within only a few days.

Keep in mind, the more timid the cat, the closer to home they're likely to be. If your cat is naturally skittish, they are more likely hiding close by in motionless silent fear, so focus your search to comb the area of a 150 foot radius from the point of escape. If not found by dark, open the escape door ten inches and turn off all lights to lure them home for an easy night recovery.

Key rule of thumb:

SEARCH in the day and LURE at night.

CAT PERSONALITIES: RECOVERY STRATEGY FOR EACH

THE FRIENDLY CURIOUS/CLOWN CAT: A friendly, bold cat that happily greets strangers. When displaced, they might hide for a short while but then they will travel. They want to “see the world.”

Strategy for recovery: Place florescent posters within a five-block radius. Interview neighbors in a door-to-door search thoroughly searching all possible hiding places in their yards and other areas near the escape point. Do not assume even a friendly; gregarious cat will come when you call!

THE CARELESS CAT: These aloof cats are not interested in people. When a stranger comes in, they stand back and watch. When displaced, they will hide at first, then eventually break cover and come back to the door and meow to get in (usually at night). Strategy for recovery: Search nearby hiding places, then interview neighbors and search their yards. If these efforts do not produce results, consider setting a baited humane trap.

CAUTIOUS CAT: generally calm but shy. They like certain people, but when a stranger comes to the door, they hide. They may peek around a corner and eventually come out to investigate. When displaced, they will hide in fear. If not scared out of their hiding place, they may return to the door where they escaped from or meow when owner comes to look for them. This behavior is typically observed either within the first two days (after the cat has built up confidence) or in the Threshold period-- seven to ten days later when their hunger or thirst has reached a point of desperation. Strategy for recovery: Don't wait. Conduct a focused search in neighbors' yards and set baited humane traps and

cameras. These cats may respond to a call, but call softly and only when in your own yard. On Day 2, put orange posters up and get flyers into the hands of all neighbors within 500 feet of your house.

XENOPHOBIC CAT: Xenophobia means "fear or hatred of things strange or foreign." Xenophobic cats are afraid of EVERYTHING new and unfamiliar. These cats hide when a stranger comes into their home and typically will not come out of hiding until company has left. They do not especially like affection and are easily disturbed by any change in their environment. When displaced, they bolt and then HIDE IN SILENCE for days. They tend to remain in the same hiding place and become catatonic, immobilized with fear. If found by someone other than their owner, they are usually mistaken as a wild stray or "feral." Strategy for recovery: Open door policy at night with baited humane traps in areas that are quiet and shaded. Xenophobic cats that become lost are often so nervous they are rarely sighted by anyone and may join the fearful feral cat population. Contact local TNR and feral cat feeders. Humane traps set in covered; quiet places are key to recovering these types of cats.

PART 2

WHAT NOT TO DO

When a pet is lost, most people walk around the neighborhood calling. Not only does this rarely work, it can complicate a search, drawing a cat away from home, potentially across town as in the Pied Piper story.

Other things to avoid:

- Don't walk around shaking treats and making "dinner sounds".
- Don't leave food out unless in front of trail cam or in a humane trap.
- Do not spread dirty kitty litter or spray urine.
- Don't wander around to "disperse your scent" or go stomping through bushes calling--especially if you have a skittish indoor cat.

Why not walk around your neighborhood calling your cat? Think about it. You could be calling him from blocks away when he was right next door. Even if he did try to work his way toward your voice, by the time he got there, you'd be gone, leaving him even farther from home and more in danger. Only call if you are in your own yard, home, in an enclosed space like a garage, or if you actually see your cat.

The Silence Factor

Even the most loving cat is not likely to come when you call if stressed or distracted. This phenomenon is called, "The Silence Factor" and is one of the reasons so many lost cats are



If your cat has accidentally become stuck somewhere or trapped in a garage, you may hear them if you have an amplified listening device.

never found. A hiding cat will not meow. They will not move. They instinctually know that meowing gives away their location to possible predators. They are just too afraid to risk it.

This is why you need to imagine your cat as deaf when searching; to make sure you search with your eyes instead of ears or assumptions.

Maybe you have already tried calling, expecting your cat to come out of hiding. Please do not assume he is not in an area because he did not respond.

I often hear clients assume that just because their cat is not responding to a call, they are sure that he is not in the area; that someone took him in, or a coyote killed him. Yet most times, their cat is still within 500 feet, frightened, trapped, injured or hiding.

MYTHS, MISCONCEPTIONS AND MISINFORMATION

Typical obstacles to search success

Tunnel Vision

Often cat owners think in ways that can inhibit their chances of finding their lost cat. Some develop "tunnel vision" and fail to find their cat because they are too focused on a faulty theory or assumption. Many convince themselves their cat was stolen or spend insufficient time in the key search zone.

Microchip Misconceptions

Some owners believe that if their cat has a microchip, they do not need to search. They mistakenly think a microchip is a GPS tracking device or they will get a call "when the cat turns up." Do not count on your cat's

microchip as a way of getting him back. Microchips only serve to identify an animal brought into a shelter.

Vets do not typically scan for chips unless specifically asked.

Never assume your cat will be scanned for a microchip and returned to you. Even at good shelters, mistakes happen and some rescues fail to scan every cat.

Sadly, this happens more often than you would think, and the poor cat ends up at a shelter for months or longer. Even sadder is that many sweet housecats become panicked when brought into a shelter and act like a feral cat. Shelters routinely euthanize cats that are panicked like this, assuming the cat is feral, unmanageable, unadoptable.

Make sure your cat microchip information is up to date. Find the company to call at www.petmicrochiplookup.org

If your cat is chipped, find the records or call the vet or shelter who did it, then type the number into this [Universal Lookup site](http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org) at www.petmicrochiplookup.org and alert the microchip company so they know your cat is missing and have your current contact information!

Have you moved since the microchip was inserted? Owners must register the chip once it's implanted AND update it with the new address each time you move.

THE TEMPTATION TO CHASE

Another well-intentioned sabotage occurs when someone spots your cat and chases or tries to grab her—frightening an already traumatized cat who bites, claws and breaks free and runs farther away. Now the cat is going to be even harder to approach and more difficult to recover.

Make sure everyone knows—especially kids—NOT TO CHASE your cat. Urge people to JUST CALL OR TEXT you a picture or watch the cat until you can arrive with your supplies. More about that key moment in a later chapter.

Avoiding The Emotional Pain

Many owners plummet into grief and despair within the first week of searching, usually after being discouraged by others who rebuke them with callous comments like, "It was just a cat" or "You'll never find your cat," or even the oft-repeated, "You know there's coyotes around here, right?"

Too many owners give up rather than stay in that stressed mode of fear, searching and worry. This may be the biggest reason so many tame, friendly cats end up at shelters: the owners simply stop looking too soon to move past the painful emotions.

Key obstacles in a lost cat search are:

- Grief avoidance
- Early discouragement
- Lack of support/hope

Below are the four main reasons owners stop searching. Rarely are any of them the real reason a cat is missing:

- "My cat was stolen"
- "My cat went off to die"
- "My cat was killed by coyotes"
- "A mean neighbor took my cat"

The biggest reason is simply that they gave up too soon. Do not let feelings of fear, guilt or worry paralyze you. It will only get in the way of finding your cat.

Typical Dog Advice

Another obstacle is the owner assuming they have “done all they can” after following the typical dog advice: walking around calling, flyers and a visit to the shelter. After a few days, they think they’ve “done everything” and give up.

The primary technique to recover a missing cat is getting permission from all neighbors to enter their yards and outbuildings to do a detailed search as well as setting baited humane traps where the clues lead. Posters, flyers and visits to the shelter are all important, but all are secondary to searching.

Depending on the Kindness of Strangers

Neighbors might seem sympathetic, but they will not search half as well as you would. Just asking them to keep an eye out for your cat is NOT good enough. Neighbors are not going to crawl under their deck or house to search for someone else's cat. You need to search yourself. Tell them your cat will only respond to your voice so you need to search using your super-power LED torch flashlight.

Food Fights

Maybe the most frequent sabotage is leaving food out, thinking a plate of food will keep a cat around. But leaving any food out is counter-productive as it lengthens the time it will take before the missing cat is hungry enough to attempt returning or entering a trap.

The problem is compounded when the food draws in raccoons, coyotes and bully cats who may chase your cat farther, or worse, injure your cat.

Good Intentions Gone Wrong

An estimated 35% of owned cats were found as strays who “just wandered up!” This high number shows the importance of big neon posters and hand delivered flyers. Make sure everyone knows it’s YOUR cat if it shows up at their house.

Some people will intentionally keep your cat, thinking they are a better home, thereby doing him a favor. Have any of your neighbors complained or cautioned you about the “dangers of a cat being outside?” This may be the very person who “saved” him from you.

Another rescuer mentality is when a TNR or shelter person finds a skinny lost cat with a xenophobic temperament and assumes the cat is has been abandoned or is feral and needs rescuing.

While it is true that some cats will hiss, spit, spin, and lunge in certain circumstances, this "wild animal" behavior can occur in sweet domestic cats after just a few days. For many normal friendly cats, this is a standard reaction to being in a scary confined space and does NOT mean the cat is feral, so make sure all feral feeders and shelter workers KNOW what your cat looks like with a good flyer photo.

Facebook is full of cat rescue ladies who collect cats they are convinced were abandoned when usually, the cat is simply lost or displaced from home. In most cases, a stray cat is a lost cat.

DON'T GIVE UP!

Your cat is out there somewhere. You have a better chance of getting him back home if you remain calm and persistent in your efforts.

Statistics show that people who start looking immediately with an organized approach have a better chance of finding their cat. Be that

person. Stay positive and keep up the search as long as it takes. If you are dedicated, focused and rested, you are more likely to notice important clues and recover your cat!

Please do not give up on your cat! Do whatever it takes to stay focused. Recruit a friend, or get custom advice from me.

PART 3

FIRST LOOK

Many people spend hours searching for a cat that never got out. Cats are ninja hidiers and can be in places you would never think to look, such as in a cupboard, closet, on a shelf tangled in a blanket, in a box, under the bed, closed up in a drawer, or even BEHIND a drawer of a bathroom cabinet or appliance. In one recent case, the cat was hiding in silence for days --behind the entertainment center in the basement with a toothpick in her throat. The owners were convinced she had gotten out because she did not answer them.

THE INDOOR SEARCH

If you are not positive your cat got out, check EVERYWHERE inside first. Use a [high-lumen flashlight](#) and start with closets, cupboards, and any low, dark places in the house. Think of each room in cubic inches, not just floor space. Double check behind (and even inside) washer/dryers, dishwashers, furniture, cabinets, box springs, cardboard boxes, blanket chests and drawers. Even empty electrical sockets are big enough for a cat to get into.



Here's an example of a cat found in an empty outlet wall after 2 months:

<http://www.wvgazettemail.com/article/20150625/DM06/150629391>

Be sure to check attics and basements, too. Don't skip anything or make any assumptions. Here are two stories to show why:

"We moved and my old cat disappeared. I was terrified she had slipped out while we were bringing in the furniture. I searched for her for days without a response. Then one day, while doing laundry in the basement I heard a meow in the wall. She had found a tiny hole and crawled into the basement walls. I almost cried with relief when I heard that faint meow."--Betina

"Kim, I just wanted to let you know that I downloaded your book. Since I hadn't seen her get out, we decided to search again for her inside, following your tips from the indoor cat section. I finally found her inside a box of stuffed animals stored under my son's bed. I had searched around and behind the box, but not in it. The box flaps had collapsed inward and she could not get back out! --Kavita

Ask yourself: Did anyone see your cat get out? If no one saw your cat outside, check the following:

- Behind or inside drawers in a dresser/blanket chest
- Behind the refrigerator, stove, or washer/dryer
- Inside recliner chairs along the ledge supporting footrest
- Box springs/mattress: Check w/flashlight for torn lining
- Wrapped/caught in the bottom of drapes or cords
- Behind books in a bookcase
- In the chimney—check your flue ledge and rooftop
- In heating ducts and vents
- In the attic—even if no one has been up there lately
- Drawers in furniture and bathroom cabinets
- Holes or missing electric plates in the wall (see case examples).

If your cat has definitely escaped, check these:

- Under decks and patios, including up on joists
- Parked vehicles: wheel wells, skid plate, axles, engine compartment
- Inside corners of neighbor's garages
- Along base of bushes, plants and tall grass near house
- Sheds (they can get in them through floor or roof vents)
- Inside pipes, storm drains, culverts and watersheds

-
- Wood piles, brush and stone piles
 - Basements and crawl spaces
 - Rooftops (sometimes accessed from a tree branch)
 - Under grill, patio furniture and boat covers/tarps

THE OUTDOOR SEARCH

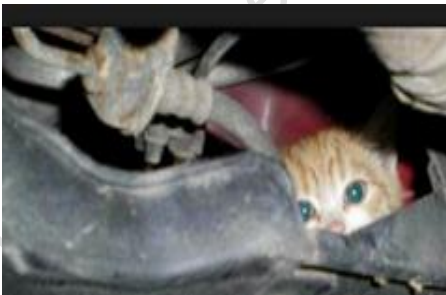
If you are positive your cat has indeed gotten out, first examine the perimeter edges of your house. Keep in mind, any place you can fit a fist your cat can get into. You may only see their butt sticking out.

Next, expand to check the closest bushes, sheds, crawl spaces, basements, attics, garages -- especially under decks--out to a 250 foot radius. See my [How to Find a Lost Cat video](#) for how to make a focused radial search map.

Cats often go down storm drains in suburban residential areas. It is the outdoor equivalent of “going under the bed.” Again, do not expect them to answer your call, even if they always did at home. Check the entry point with your flashlight for even one hair caught upon entry and save it on a piece of tape so you can check for new hairs later.

***NOTE** As a general rule, Indoor cats who slip out will usually stay in their own yards, hiding under a house, deck or shrubbery. Outdoor cats are more likely to be stuck somewhere.*

TYPICAL CAT HIDING PLACES



Many cats seek cover under sheds, under cars or up in the chassis of SUVs and trucks -- especially in apartment complexes where there are no other places to hide.

This is a real concern and can lead to accidental transport. If you think this could be the case with your missing cat, put up orange posters at all nearby intersections and any place you went within 48 hours of your cat's disappearance, such as your gas station, coffee shop or office.

Check your car chassis before going anywhere and read this [lost cat story](#) before driving your car. This is not the only person to transport her OWN LOST CAT to work. Click this link or Google search the phrase "[Shearer the cat stuck in car engine for 5 DAYS](#)"

COMB YOUR OWN YARD FIRST

Take a cat's-eye view and focus on the low, dark, shady places. Remember, if you can fit your fist into a space, your cat can get in there --but maybe not back out. Check high places, too. Some cats prefer to climb, so check rooftops, trees and attics. They will even climb up into shrubbery so check under AND IN bushes with the help of a scout in case you flush the kitty out, one of you will see which way she goes

SEARCH TECHNIQUES BASED ON CAT TYPE

What is your situation? Do you have an indoor only cat, one who is allowed out sometimes, or an outdoor only cat? If your cat is friendly and gregarious, he may travel several blocks. You will need to knock on doors and post fluorescent posters at major intersections in a two-mile radius because he is more likely to be seen by someone.

If you have a cautious cat who's wary of new things, use your house as trap, leaving the escape door open with a way to close it quietly once your cat returns inside.

If your cat MAY have once been trapped before as a feral, they may be trap-shy, so consider using a [drop trap](#).

FOR THE INDOOR- ONLY CAT

If your indoor ONLY cat has escaped, focus on finding the hiding place. A careful but quiet search, open door policy, and strategic trapping plan are your best bets for a quick recovery.

Start your search in the direction of shade and cover. Check every crevice of your house and yard. Indoor-only cats hide near their exit point. If your cat has never been out before, start in the direction that is either downhill or offers more bushes and shade. Cats naturally seek cover, so focus along house edges and foundations, fence lines and along bushes near walls.

Pay special attention to decks and crawlspaces. Even if the clearance looks too small or narrow, check it out to be sure. Use a flashlight and look carefully for even one single hair caught on an edge.

SEARCH in the DAYTIME Do not drive anywhere until you are sure your cat has not climbed up into your vehicle chassis or engine compartment. Also check every crevice of your house and yard. Indoor-only cats hide near their exit point.

LURE in the NIGHT TIME

Leave the escape door anchored open from 9pm to 9am--or from cat's usual dinnertime to usual breakfast time. Allow them a way back in the same way they left at night when they feel safest.

Set up a wireless Bunker Hill motion alert ([details here](#)) by your bedside to go off when your cat has crossed the threshold to return. This is the number one recovery method for indoor cats.

If you absolutely cannot leave the escape door open, get a "door chain" and add three screw-on links (details in my ["HOW TO" video](#)), or at the very least, set up a motion alert, baby monitor, [wildlife camera](#) or humane trap near the exit door.

If you cannot get a monitor, camera or trap immediately, then make a covered [Safe Haven](#) zone near the point of escape so your cat can come back, stay hidden and feel safe until morning. This technique has worked in a few cases but can take months.

When an indoor only cat escapes, especially in an apartment complex, they will usually follow along the walls of the building, heading away from the noise and chaos of a parking lot and end up hiding either in a central area, such as under a pool deck in winter, a pump house or on the outskirts areas where there is lower car human and dog activity.

Since most cats stick near walls, follow the line and where it leads while searching each tiny space along the way. Remember; think like a cat, which means you are one foot tall and looking for the first place to hide. This includes under and in patio furniture, grills and woodpiles.

ESCAPEE? Allowing re-entry at night is one of the simplest and most effective methods for recovering an indoor-only cat. They want to get back inside even more than they want food. Give them every chance to do so. You will save yourself a lot of time, stress and emotional turmoil. If you have other pets, contain them in a bedroom at night or board them somewhere. Find a way to let your cat get back indoors. Keep the area dark and quiet. Once your kitty has settled down to eat, quietly close the door.

FOR THE MISSING IN –AND-OUT CAT

Cats who are allowed outside for brief periods are often stuck in sheds or garages or sometimes chased by dogs or kids into unfamiliar territory.

Cats are very territorial, so it is traumatic when they find themselves in a new area. While some cats have the ability to use their homing instinct to work their way back, many cats either do not possess this skill or they are too frightened to use it. With these cats, searching yards, sheds/garages in a five-house radius is key to finding where your cat is stuck, trapped or hiding.

FOR THE MISSING OUTDOOR-OFTEN CAT

Ask yourself, WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS CAT? When a free outdoor access cat disappears, it means something occurred that kept them from returning to their turf. Cats are territorial and rarely run away from home unless chased or transported.

Launch an aggressive, physical search of a 500 ft radius; ask neighbors if they have **ever** seen your cat before to determine how far your cat usually ventures, then with that information, get access to check every conceivable spot your cat could be stuck.

OUTDOOR CATS WITH A DOUBLE LIFE

Studies of domestic cats wearing video collars revealed that many of the cats have two homes and visit both daily, go inside, eat and sleep! When a cat like this disappears, it could be that one of the families went on vacation, or even took him along when they moved. Interview neighbors to see who is on vacation and who has moved recently, keeping in mind curious cats are accidentally transported in moving vans.

TOP SCENARIOS TO EXPLAIN YOUR MISSING CAT

Which of these 8 scenarios seems most likely to explain your situation?
(Adapted with permission from K. Albrecht).)

1. Your Cat is Stuck Somewhere

Your cat could be up a tree, on a roof, under a house, or inside a neighbor's basement or shed. Most likely, they will be well within their normal territory, usually a five-house radius of home. Your mission is to obtain permission from your neighbors to visit their yards so you can look for your cat yourself. DO NOT rely on them to "LOOK" for your cat. They will merely glance around to see if your cat is lounging on their patio. Check these often-missed areas:

- Stuck under a shed or basement, check for wires/screens or weeds pushed inward.
- Slipped into a tool shed during a yard project, then door shut trapping them; ask if YOU can search.
- Trapped in a box—box flaps that cave inward but cannot be exited. Especially possible during packing for a move. Check stacked boxes!

2. Your Cat Was Rescued

By rescue, we mean a well-meaning person found your cat, assumed it was a stray, and took it into their house or to a shelter. This happens frequently, especially with cats who are not wearing collars, microchips or ID tags.

3. Your Cat Was Stolen

Cat theft is very rare. While some purebred and exotic cats are stolen, there are very few incidents of intentional cat theft. Cats that willingly approach strangers or are part of a relationship (or neighborhood) dispute can be at risk of being “removed” on purpose, though.

4. Your Cat is Injured, Sick, or Deceased

Injured or sick cats will hide in silence. We call this "The Silence Factor" and people's ignorance of this phenomenon leads to cats that die alone every day. Cats instinctually hide in silence to protect themselves from predators.

This means that **before** you print up lost cat posters or drive down to the shelter, SEARCH in and under every conceivable hiding place within a five-house radius.

It is quite possible your cat is injured and in need of medical attention and you cannot risk wasting time. Be ready to reach somewhere or crawl under a house in order to save them.

5. Your Cat Was Killed by a Predator

Death by coyotes is more rare than people think, but it is possible. Unless you find fur clumps or bones, it is unlikely. Pet Detectives are trained in how to analyze wildlife tracks, scat (feces) as well as using hair fiber evidence in forensic (i.e. DNA) testing. We also carry Luminol to use at sites where fur is found to check for the

presence of blood. If your cat is missing and you find clumps of fur, contact me for forensic resources and assistance. See later section on animal tracks to learn how to identify coyote prints and scat.

6. Your Cat Was Chased Into an Unfamiliar Area

Many lost or chased cats will work their way back home once their adrenaline levels have subsided, showing up a few days later. But cats with skittish temperaments will be so panicked; they will hide in fear for days or weeks, too afraid to return home. This is why it's critically important to launch an aggressive, physical search to determine if your cat is within 500 feet. The failure to conduct this type of search is why so many cats are never found and end up at shelters or in the feral cat population.

7. Your Cat Was Intentionally Removed From the Area

Cats can be transported out of their territory either intentionally or unintentionally. Intentional removals can include a cat-hating (usually bird-loving) neighbor who captures a cat, and then takes it to a shelter, dumps them far away or kills them.

Intentional removal can also include cases where someone steals a cat. **Examples of intentional transport.** [Link](#)

- Bird-loving/cat-hating neighbors
- Managers of apartment complexes
- Pest control and wildlife removal companies – have any houses near you had a recent Termite fumigation?

8. Your Cat Was Accidentally Transported Out of Area

Skittish cats and kittens often climb up into car engines, or lately, the skid plate platform on SUVs and get transported. Yes, this actually happens. Even with cats who are afraid of cars. I have had

dozens of cases of cats who hid up on a skid platform where no one could see them (including dogs) when looking under the vehicle. They can stay up in the axle area of a car chassis for miles and get transported far away, so JUST IN CASE, make sure you mount big orange posters at the first five stops going out, as well as near your office or any school or store anyone visited within the first 48 hours.

In some of my cases, cats will bail out at a stoplight, but many hang on until the vehicle comes to a stop and engine shuts off. If you have an indoor-only cat who escaped and your SUV was parked within 150 feet, think on where you went within that 48 hour span and get orange posters up at each intersection along your route as your cat may have hitched a ride. This is exactly how I found Ruby - the cat who escaped into a garage and hitched a ride under her owner's SUV.

More skittish cats are more likely to wait until the vehicle has stopped and turned off. In Ruby's case, she bailed out about halfway to the gym, so intersections are key.

Cases of truly accidental transport include your cat climbing into a moving van, service or delivery vehicle and being transported out of the area. Ask each neighbor if any construction or delivery vans have been in the area: painters, movers, AC repair, plumbers, roofers, lawn maintenance, cable and phone repair.

Examples of Accidental Transport

- Hiding in a worker's van that was left open ([CA plumber case](#)).
- Transported in donated furniture (read this [Goodwill couch example](#))

-
-
- Climbed into a parked car window or took a nap in a truck bed.
 - Slipped into open RV, camper, moving van or even a towed car (cats often pick large vehicles that haven't moved in a while).
 - Climbed up in the chassis of a parked vehicle (onto axle, wheel wells, engine). Especially the SUV skid plate platform.



Use a LED flashlight to look for cat hair caught under SUVs and trucks parked within 50 feet of your cat's escape point.

Examine for even one hair caught on the axle or corner of skid plate (shown above).

If even one hair, find out where that vehicle went, put up posters at each stop along the way and especially at the place where the vehicle finally parked.

I have had tragic cases of cats hiding in chassis and engine compartments just two driveways from home who were killed when a neighbor started the car, so please, ask to check under the chassis of any vehicle parked within 100 feet of an indoor cat's point of escape or an outdoor cat who was being harassed by children or dogs.

LOOKOUT SCOUTS

Recruit at least one observant person to come with you on the search. They can help in many ways, especially when you are searching in bushes and other hiding places. Why? Because if you flush your cat out of hiding, a second person in charge of standing back and watching can see the cat exit and observe the direction of travel.

Without a lookout scout, you may find your cat's hiding place but never know it. Cats have hearing better than a dog and are very good at evading detection. They can sense footsteps approaching and do not wait to see who it is!

Keep in mind when searching bushes; check under but also IN the bush! It is usually easier and more productive to inspect bushes from above, looking down into them. Oddly enough, cats HAVE been found hiding a foot off the ground in bushes, so check from the top down when possible.

Thoroughly comb all properties and yards first within a 250-foot radius of the point last seen, and then branch out to the 500 ft. radius.

A recent MPP study shows that 77% of the cats missing after July 4 Fireworks were found hiding within one block of home (mostly under decks and houses).

CREATE A SEARCH MAP

You'll need two maps during your search. Print out one of each.

Here's the into the Google Maps tool I use to establish a search zone and search maps to print out: <https://www.mapdevelopers.com/draw-circle-tool.php>

Type in your address, then select the FEET option instead of miles, choose a color for the search zone perimeter, choose the relevant size

radius (usually a 250 and 500 ft. circle) check the box that says “show border only”, then click NEW CIRCLE.

Print out a copy in MAP VIEW for notes and one in Satellite view so you can see relevant geographic markers and views of backyards with decks and sheds.

Keep your notes on the plain view map print out and note which houses, garages and yards have been searched, and which ones have a dog or cat on the premises.

When in doubt, start with the 250 radius, then expand out to the 500 ft. circle. If you live in a rural area, focus your initial search within 250 feet of your house. That is about 100 paces.

Here’s a guide to approximate distances:

120 strides ~ 300 feet

80 strides ~ 200 feet

40 strides ~ 100 feet

SEARCH ZONES: Focus on a 250-foot radius from the point last seen. Search every nook hole and crawl space down low, and then repeat focusing up high before you fan out into the 500 ft. radius. Go door to door, starting close to home, moving farther out gradually.

While you search, keep in mind the ideal place for a cat to hide is a quiet, shady area with little or zero resident activity, **no other cats or dogs**, and easy access to food and water.

Indoor cats are often found within a three to 5 house radius of their own home. They may move farther if flushed from hiding, chased by a

dog or bully cat, but once they spend some time and deposit their scent in an area, they will most likely stay put.

There is an even greater chance your cat will be found close by if it's a timid indoor-only cat, a homebody outdoor cat or a sick/injured cat. A cat's territory can range from acres for a country cat to just a few feet from your doorstep for a city cat.

According to years of found cat statistics, your cat is probably within 500 feet of your house. So it is key to search every inch and corner of each yard and shed near your cat's escape point. Think in cubic inches.

KEY STEPS IN ORDER

Ideally, these key steps should be implemented within the first 48 hours of your cat's disappearance. The standard mentality of waiting to see if they come home greatly reduces your chances of recovering your cat and risks their death if injured or trapped somewhere.

1. Make sure your cat is not stuck or hiding in the house, or up inside the chassis of the SUV or truck in your garage!
2. Open your door as you do the perimeter search of your house so your cat is able to run back inside if you flush them from hiding.
3. **BRING IN ANY FOOD** you left out as the smell can draw bully cats and predators. If possible, eliminate all other sources of food within 100 feet of your house.
4. Bring in any kitty litter, cat beds or cat trees.
5. Comb perimeter and every inch of your cat's territory. If unknown, use a radius of 100 paces from your door.

-
6. Obtain a humane trap—especially for indoor-only cats who escaped outdoors.
 7. Put up orange posters with a big photo + phone number in your yard and first five intersections leaving your driveway.
 8. Create and hand out mini-photo flyers to neighbors, postman, and joggers. Ask them to keep on their fridge in case of a sighting.
 9. At night, leave the exact door your cat escaped from propped open at least six inches from 7pm to 7am.

Set up a BH [motion alert](#) just inside the door to let you know when your cat has returned. The receiver will DING to wake you when the monitor detects motion across the threshold.

Set up a humane trap with a bowl of mackerel or your cat's favorite smelly wet food (not dry). Use in conjunction with a second motion alert or baby monitor so you know the second your cat enters the trap. Simply tap, bungee or zip tie the motion sensor facing down into the trap so it only chimes if something goes in. Be sure to check it using your arm to make sure the electronic eye is not blocked. How to video at <https://vimeo.com/222025576>

Create handout flyers using a color photo of your cat. With flyers, you should HAND DELIVER each one and talk to homeowner (you'll be surprised how nice people are and how much good info you'll get!). If no one is home after second try, tape it at an angle (more noticeable) on a door or window people will see upon coming home (or from inside the house).

Distribute flyers door-to-door in all directions of your 500-foot radius. Keep it simple so people will read it. Three key elements: Big picture of your cat, your phone number and the reward amount.

To create a search map, determine your radius zone and keep a record of which yards you've searched, try this helpful tool:

<http://www.freemaptools.com/how-far-is-it-between.htm>

Hang big 14 x 22 orange posters at all intersections within 2-mile radius in case your cat has been accidentally transported. Put out a request on www.nextdoor.com to see if which neighbors will let you pop a yard sign into their yard or corner lot about your missing cat. Offer them a reward if found thanks to their sign!

***IMPORTANT:** Stress to neighbors how important it is that YOU check their sheds, decks and garages. Your cat will only respond to your voice if anyone's. Remind them cats hide in silence and your cat is more likely to respond to your voice than a stranger's.*

Enlist neighborhood kids. Ask local children to keep their eyes open or recruit them to hang big posters.

Post an ad (with pictures) and monitor local social media sites in your area. These would include your neighborhood's Facebook pages and Nextdoor.com

***TIP:** Make Craigslist's Lost & Found page your default browser window (with the keywords: "FOUND CAT" typed into search box before clicking "Make this page the default." This way every time you open a window, the new cat listings show up.*

Put a free ad on Craigslist as this is THE place people go when they find a pet! NOT Facebook pages, not local classifieds anymore, and not the vet offices. If you found a pet, would you start searching Facebook to see if anyone was looking?? Not likely and neither would the average citizen.

If you take only one thing away from this eBook, let it be this: KEEP THAT FREE CRAIGSLIST AD and photo of your cat up and running! If you do not log in weekly to renew it, the ad will EXPIRE and drop off the page.

Since it may take months for someone to notice your cat and check to see if anyone has lost her, you absolutely MUST keep that ad refreshed and renewed as long as it takes, I have had five cases solved thanks to owners NOT giving up. They may have ceased their search efforts but they never let that ad die, and one day, the cat was found way across town, starving, but alive. When the finder checked Craigslist, there was the cat's picture and a way to contact the owner, after all those months. In one case, two years.

The point is, it is free, it works, and it is often the only way a finder will be able to reach you. Take 30 seconds every Sunday night to click RENEW. Those 30 seconds may turn out to be what gets your cat back to you. While you are at it, consider taking a moment to tell others about my eBook and video. You could be helping others get their cats found, and help me by spreading the word of my work and research.

IMPORTANT: Renew/refresh your own Craigslist ad every five days to keep it near the top where everyone will see it, and at minimum, every 44 days to keep it from expiring.

Check Facebook pages and websites created by local rescue groups. Depending on your cat's personality, it can take months for them to be spotted, and another several months before they allow anyone to touch them and even longer to be taken in by someone, so as long as your cat is missing, keep watching those www.Nextdoor.com and Facebook Posts, Craigslist, and shelter intake photo pages. The key big national ones are:

- [Pet Finder](#)

-
- [Pet Harbor](#)
 - <http://petfinders.com>

Post to local community sites. Most communities sponsor Event Happenings online featuring missing pets.

Check your local newspaper. Occasionally, people run “found cat” ads in their local paper but rarely put any more effort into finding an owner. It’s up to you to keep a close eye on the classified ads. Ask newspapers and shelters if they offer an option to have Lost & Found listings emailed to you daily.

Talk to landscapers and Maintenance men. They see cats often and may flush yours out of hiding while they’re working. Make a small pocket size version of your flyer in Spanish or a bilingual front/back version of your flyer if necessary.

Stop anyone walking a dog and give them a mini-flyer. Remind them that their dog may see or smell your cat under a car, shrubbery, or down a storm drain! Unless the owner knows to be aware and alert for this, they may miss it. **Remind them to just text a photo!**

Call local veterinarians. It is possible someone found your cat injured and took it to a vet, so get a flyer to all nearby vets and emergency animal clinics.

Visit local animal shelters. Check shelters once you have completed the more important tasks. Unless you have a very friendly cat and/or a neighbor who has complained about it in their yard, the odds of your cat having been spotted, picked up by a stranger and transported to a shelter within 2 days are very low.

Leave a few fliers with your local animal shelter and ask to be notified if your cat comes in--alive or dead. Ask if they scan for a chip. Most shelters post photos of each cat they take in and have a three-day hold.

Call them, file a report and ask about their protocol. Every three days, check your local animal shelter along with private feline rescue groups, local feral TNR (Trap, Neuter and Release) people and any cat colony caretakers to see if they have your cat.

According to the American Humane Association, only 2% cats brought to the shelter are reunited with their owners. This is partly because owners go to the shelter too soon (long before the cat has been brought in) and give up the new cat intake watch within a month.

Alert your Animal Control Officer. Give them a flyer and ask them to be on the lookout for your cat, dead or alive. They can tell you who picks up deceased animals along roadways. Ask them to alert you if they do they scan deceased animals or keep records.

Pet Store clerks. Ask to post your mini-flyer at the checkout counter. I had one case of a transported cat solved when a random customer buying pet food and saw the flyer of the lost cat she had been feeding!

Take mini flyers to your post office and ask them to distribute them to the mail carriers who deliver mail in your zip code.

Ask the nearest school to put self-standing yard signs on wooden stakes or metal step-in brackets near the drop off/pick up line. Many cats hide in a minivan chassis then accidentally get transported the next morning to the local school and jump out. They usually stay in the area or hitch a ride under another vehicle and end up in another neighborhood. If your school does not allow signs on school property, get posters up on phone poles near the school where moms and kids will see them. If that is not allowed, then put a big orange sign on your windshield and rear window and park near the entrance in the mornings.

Check with local rescue organizations. Visit local rescues that may have recently taken in a stray cat.

Distribute flyers at local rescue groups. Contact any local cat rescue groups in your area. If you are not sure how to reach them, ask the staff at your local shelter for a list of the ones in your area.

Hire me, the Lost Cat Finder or other pet detectives with a proven track record, ideally one who specializes in lost cats. As a Lost Cat Specialist, I can help in various ways including phone consults, custom coaching, and of course, a live, in-person search.

If you would like my personal guidance after finishing this e-book, get in touch to alert me and send a profile on your missing cat [here](#). Be as detailed as possible. Each answer is a potential clue.

Over Two Weeks?

*If your cat has been gone more than two weeks, add a handwritten message to your posters saying, “**Any information appreciated: Owner needs closure.**”*

This may prompt people who might know something useful to step forward.

PART 4 EFFECTIVE FLYERS & POSTERS

Flyers and posters are important tools in finding your cat. Keep them simple. The size, color, photo and contact info are the keys to an eye-catching message.

FOCUS ON THE PHOTO

Pick a photo that shows your cat's body, face and markings well.

Use the your photo "tools option" to brighten, adjust contrast, and pull out shadows to make your cat pic pop from a distance. Erase or white-out the background if possible to make the cat image stand out, big and clear on the page. (There is an app called Background Erase that can do this quickly and easily). The photo should be the biggest thing on the page. The larger the picture, the more people are aware of your missing cat.

WORDING

Adding "Do Not Chase" to your flyer avoids the risk of your cat being pushed into a new area and starting the search over. Unless your cat is super-friendly and a very easy-to-pick-up-and-carry, clown cat, write "Timid Cat: Do Not Chase" or "Call Upon Sighting: Do Not Approach."

My latest approach is to simply say "**\$50 for a Photo if you see this Cat!**" to encourage people to take pics instead of chasing. You only need pay them if it is your cat--and it will be worth it, as it tells you where your cat is!

PHONE NUMBER

Include a phone number where you can always be reached. Use YOUR cell phone number on the flyer—NOT a robo-calling service—so you can

get to the area immediately. List only one phone number if possible. Choose the person who:

- Always has their cell phone on them.
- Can drop everything if a call comes in.
- Able to get there fast.

None of the robo-call services like Amber Alert, Pawboost and Home Again are going to rush to the scene of a sighting or come out and look for your cat. Use your own flyers and your own phone number.

OFFER A REWARD

Offer a specific reward. Studies show people will go to extra trouble to search their area if you offer \$500. It motivates people to actually look for your cat.

"In my experience, \$500 activates people," says Amber Burckhalter. "A pet owner posted a \$500 Reward poster and promptly received a call from an animal control officer. "He was out to pick up a stray and recognized the pic on the poster. The dog had been at the shelter in a room not open to the public!"

ESTIMATING FLYERS TO HAND OUT IN PERSON

Use the Google map developer tool mentioned earlier and in my video to determine the number of houses in your 500-foot radius. Make enough copies to give to each of them, plus an extra 15 nearby vets.

The smaller "4-up" quarter page flyers below are to hand out in person. People are more likely to keep them in case of a sighting.

To make these 4-up flyers in WORD, just take a screenshot of your poster, then cut and paste 4 to a page.

Option B: On most home computers/printers, you can save the page as a PDF. Under the printing option choose "copies per page" and pick 4 to make quarter sheets. You can also use the [templates on this page](#) to make the smaller 4-up flyers people are more likely to keep.

If you do not have a way to make flyers yourself, try Fat Cat's flyer creator at [this link](#). Or order them from a place like this:
http://www.expresscopy.com/index_or_adwds



Hand out these mini-flyers to neighbors, joggers, kids, postal workers and delivery truck drivers in your neighborhood.

No matter how friendly your cat is, say "DO NOT



Easy poster assembly: a color flyer under a self-seal lamination sheet ([Walmart](#)) taped to a foam sheet ([Michael's Crafts.](#))

POSTERS THAT GET RESULTS

Since people do not notice the small typically white 8.5 x 11 flyer on a phone pole, you need to use a big unusual size and standout color. Orange is the most noticed color, which is why hunters and road crews wear it.

You may have so many flyers plastered all over the streets you think there is no way anyone could NOT notice them, but it happens every day, and tragically, I have found cats who died in a yard where one of these little flyers was posted right in front of it. The homeowners saw the cat, but never noticed the sign.

You get five seconds and five words to get your message across to drivers passing through an area where your cat is missing. This is why the size and color of your posters are very important.

POST SIGNS WHERE THEY ARE EASILY SEEN

Place your orange posters at all major intersections within a two-mile radius of your cat's escape point, one in your yard, plus anywhere there have been sightings. Lower is actually better. Hang them around chest level, or about 4 feet up so they are most visible at DRIVER's-eye level. Uses either zip ties or wide packing tape to secure them to poles. Try to use only freestanding yard

signs, or tape posters to phone poles and streetlights.
NOT STOP SIGNS!

If you've already put up flyers, at least add some orange duct tape to the borders, available at Home Depot and most hardware stores:



Intertape CAMO Duct Tape: 2 in. x 15 yds. Orange)

Intertape CAMO Duct Tape is a polyethylene-coated cloth with good adhesion which conforms and bonds to almost any surface, including cloth, vinyl, leather, ...

Other options ▾

\$2.98

+ \$16.77 shipping. No tax.

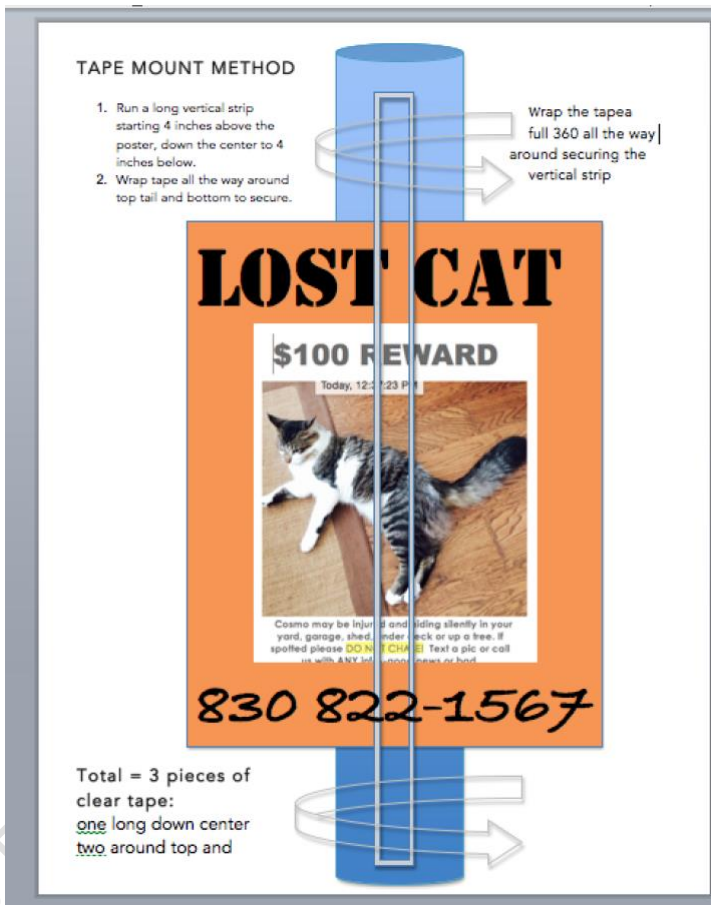
[FindTape.com](#)

★★★★★ (369)

Shop

Two cheap & easy ways to put up posters

1. Tape only



2. Watch this 30 second video to see my new poster mount system: <https://vimeo.com/281681919> ... more likely to be seen and less likely to be taken down!

PART 5

ON THE SEARCH

Get your supplies together before you head out so everything is on hand when you need it. Check out my [Equipment page](#) for the key elements I find most useful.

Top 4 items: flyers, phone, cat food and flashlight.

Key items for your search:

- Lost cat flyers
- Tuna, cat food and treats
- A LED >500 Lumen flashlight
- A dark towel
- A cat carrier
- Pen and paper for taking notes
- Binoculars
- A phone and/or camera



*Get the best, brightest flashlight you can afford (at least 500 lumens). **Always take it with you, even during daylight.** I prefer the flashlights at Lowes.*

The

Essentials:

FOOD, PHONE, FLYERS & FLASHLIGHT

Whenever you leave the house, take, flyers, tuna, your phone and a good flashlight. Print out the plain view of your 250 or 500 ft search radius (see video for how to make one) so as you go, you can make notes and mark a C or a D for each house if they have a cat or dog.

Rule of thumb: cats are usually found in areas where there is not already a resident cat or dog, so mark each yard on your map!

WHAT TO SAY TO NEIGHBORS

When interviewing neighbors, introduce yourself by first and last name. It puts people more at ease. If you're male, have your wife or child along so you are less likely to be perceived as a threat.

Knock on every door within your search radius. Show them the flyer and talk about your lost cat. Be calm and friendly -- not crazed or panicked. Tell them your cat hides in silence and ask if you can just take a “quick peek” around their bushes in case your cat is injured.

If they have pets, note it on your search map; mark a C (for cat) or D (for dog) so you can spot neutral territory pockets or “safe zones” where your cat might be.

If the owner says they are sure your cat is not in their yard, say you just want to “Quickly rule it out” so you don’t lay awake at night wondering about that one yard. No one wants to be the only house who said NO.

If they say they have dogs, therefore your cat will not be in their yard, check to see if there are any trees and say “Oh, maybe your dogs chased her up one of those trees! May I just check real quick?”

Once you have their permission, be super observant for clues, especially if they have dogs; look for clumps of hair, pieces of a collar, hairs caught under a deck board and signs of a scuffle in the dirt.

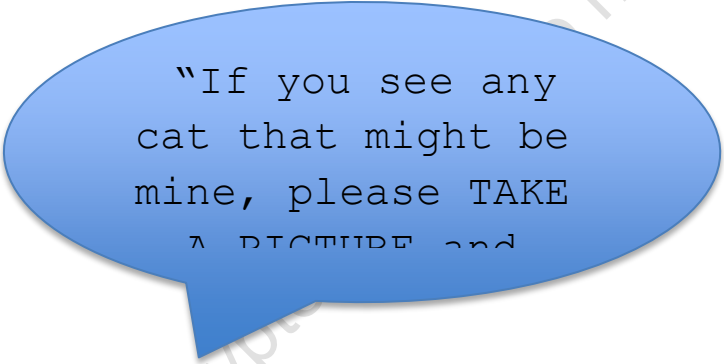
If they offer to search for you, you have two options: You can say yes and remind them of the reward if your cat is found or spotted on their property (remind them to get a photo, not chase). OR, you can explain that YOU need to do the search because your cat will not come to a stranger or would run even farther away if seeing a stranger approach. You can also say you wouldn’t want them to have to crawl under their house or deck, but YOU are willing to do it to rescue your beloved cat!”

Hesitant Homeowner? Remind them that if your cat is found in their yard, they get the reward. This motivates many hesitant homeowners.

If they’re following you around, ask if they have heard any yowling or cat fights in the last week or dogs barking more at night. For cat owners,

ask if their cat has been agitated, growling or looking out various windows.

Look for any food or water bowls around the yard. Ask if they know of any neighbors who put out food for animals. If anyone feeds feral cats or wildlife, ask them to please refrain for a week while you're trying to lure your cat into a humane trap. If they resist, ask them to at least bring bowls / leftovers in before dusk.



"If you see any
cat that might be
mine, please TAKE
A PICTURE and

Remind people to get a picture, even if it is from far away or through a window, you can blow it up later and see if it is your cat. This will save you days of wasted time chasing after a sighting that is not your cat. I have had hundreds of cases of sightings where people SWORE it was "the same cat on the flyer" only to find out it is not even the same color!

This is why I now use flyers that say "\$50 for a photo" instead of just "REWARD." A photo saves everyone SO much time and energy: it lets you know if it is indeed your cat, keeps people focused on pulling out their phone instead of staring, scaring or chasing your cat, and once you have a confirmed photo, you now KNOW where your cat is and can get over there with your humane trap. Make sure you ask them to show you the exact spot where your cat was so you know where to set up the

trap. See video for trap prep and planning so you're ready the second a sighting comes in!

TIP Always pay attention to barking dogs and what they are barking at. Also be alert for angry, screeching birds—they are the first to be aware of a hiding cat and announce to all the other birds by pointing at it and squawking loudly.

Print out the following list of QUESTIONS for making notes.

Start by introducing yourself (first and last name). Give your address and hand them a flyer. Once they have glanced at it, ask these questions.

- Have you **EVER** seen this cat in this area?
- Did you see or hear anything unusual on (date)?
- Heard any meowing or **cat fights** lately?
- Have you noticed any loose or **stray dogs** lately?
- Do you know of any neighbors that **feed animals** outside (cats/dogs/deer/raccoons/foxes)?
- Has anyone in the area moved lately?
- Has anyone on the block left for **vacation** lately?
- Have you smelled any funky odors anywhere?
- Have you seen any fur, bones or animal remains?
- Has anyone been in **your attic or shed** lately?
- What is your **trash** day? (In case the cat slipped into garage.)

-
- Would you let me check around your yard and bushes in case my cat is injured and hiding?

If they say no to your search request, ask if they are willing to check while you wait.

If you think **MAYBE** your cat could be in their garage and they will not let you in to look, ask if you can leave a can of tuna in their closed garage.

The can should be placed on a saucer of water and be located in an obvious spot they can check every morning. All they need to do is glance to see if the level is going down. If the can is empty, moved or nibbled from, there is a good chance it is being eaten by your stealthy cat coming out to eat at night and returning to hiding.

Talk to everyone you can — especially people who leave food out for animals. Tell them you are trying to trap your lost cat and ask them to **PLEASE** either bring the food inside at night or to watch until the animal they feed has finished, then remove the bowl.

Your cat needs to be hungry enough to enter your humane trap, and he will not go in it if he is getting free handouts elsewhere.

Be highly visible — Your daily searches on foot will visually remind your neighbors that your cat is still missing and how much you care. Make sure they have a way to contact you. Since you cannot be everywhere at once, depend on and cultivate neighbors and kids to be your eyes and ears.

Interview Kids – Talk to kids in the area and offer them a reward. Kids have a knack for looking in places you would not think of **AND** for and spotting things—like your cat darting into a storm drain—while they are out playing.

Other things to remember:

-
- When out handing out flyers, ask if anyone has put up screen or barriers around their foundation, shed, a deck or crawlspace recently.
 - If you find a house where no one answers the door and you think it is empty or abandoned (a desirable hideouts for cats) use your local [GIS mapping](#) to look up the address or property info.

Keep in mind, there's a [Mrs. Kravitz](#) in every neighborhood who knows all the gossip and something about everybody. Try to find that lady and listen to her information and theories even if she seems a little nutty.

GARAGE SEARCHES

Just because someone tells you they have not seen a cat in their garage does not mean your cat is not there. Cats hide in silence. They can be in a garage and no one would know. The sound of the door going up and down sounds like thunder and they generally freeze in place or run for cover.

Tell your neighbors that your cat hides in silence and will only respond to your voice. If they agree to let you check, do a careful search of every corner and cubbyhole, as you may not get another chance.

Give them your full name and address. Tell them your cat may be INJURED and hiding in silence. (The idea of an injured cat elicits more concern and worry).

Then ask if you can just look around in their bushes. Show them your serious and impressive high-powered-LED flashlight.

Once they see it and you on hands and knees searching for your cat, they will often offer access to the side and backyard areas, decks, etc. If they do not offer, say, "Since I have this flashlight and he MIGHT

answer to MY voice, can I check back/over here?" Even if they say it is never open, mention trash day and how he might have slipped in there and be hiding in silence, possibly injured.

If they are at all resistant to any of your search requests, pull this out as a last resort: "Oh I understand. No worries. Just call me if you change your mind. I know you'd probably rather have \$100 dollars than a dead cat in your garage."

Here is where you pull out a pop-top can of tuna and ask them to just "set it out" overnight in the garage with door down and simply call you in the morning if any of the tuna is gone. Simple and easy for everyone involved, including the cat!

When is your trash day? Cats are often found stuck in garages after trash day comes and goes. This also happens on weekends with garages and sheds after a neighbor who had the door up "for a minute" while getting tools for a project.

CAUTION: Do not assume your cat is NOT in a garage just because the door is partly open. Here is a note from an owner to illustrate.

"We found our cat in a tiny space in the neighbors garage... jam-packed with boxes and heavy-duty equipment in what can only be described as a puzzle-like arrangement.

"I was in my yard when my neighbor ran over saying he thought he saw a tail move in his garage. My cat had gotten into the far back corner between a box and a wall.

"She was afraid to come out --even when she saw it was me! The odd thing is, this neighbor had left his garage door up for days, yet my cat did not come out. She didn't even meow all those days I went past calling her--

and I was only feet away, calling her name and shaking treats (before I knew better). You were right: —an open garage does not mean the cat isn't in there!"



TUNA TRICK

Unless the garage is clear and you can see every inch, use a can of tuna.

When it comes to searching garages, the tuna trick is less risky and stressful to a hiding cat. For any neighbors nearby or near a sighting, rather than asking to search their garage, hand them a mini-can of pop-top tuna (StarKist and Bumblebee sell 3 to a pack) and ask them to pop open and place in in their closed garage around 10pm. Let it sit there over night so they can tell if any of the tuna is gone by morning.

If they call and say any of it was eaten, get your towel, carrier, trap and flashlight and head over there. Remember it is less stressful for all involved if you just set the trap with a fresh can of tuna and leave, ideally giving them the motion alert so they know the second your cat goes in the trap.

If necessary, remind them again about the reward, saying something like, “We’re offering \$XXX reward to anyone with info that helps us find him. And \$XXX if he’s found in your yard.”

This makes them realize putting down a can of tuna overnight is very little effort for a big reward. And no one is poking around in their stuff. Plus, if they already have your cat, it gives them an easy out to admit to it the next morning.

Here’s an example of the “tuna kits” one client made to give out to neighbors!



FERAL FEEDERS ARE YOUR FRIENDS

Try to connect with anyone who feeds feral cat colonies. Often, lost cats are found by these kind souls who spot a new face and post a picture. Join the feral friends network and you can find feral cat caretakers within your zip code: <http://www.alleycat.org/our-work/feral-friends-network/>

Here is an example of a reunion after years thanks to a SPCA feral cat volunteer:

[READ ARTICLE](#)

“An SPCA worker fed a cat colony there, and one day saw a cat that didn't look familiar, so she brought him in. I went to the SPCA to visit, and while he looked so similar, just much skinnier, it was impossible to believe, but it was really him.”

Most of these dedicated souls who feed ferals, or “community cats” will try hard not to be noticed. Why? Many people are against feeding feral cats. The feeders know this, so don't stalk them. Just leave one of your flyers at their feeding station under a bowl or branch with a nice note asking them to send you a picture if your cat shows up at feeding time.

CAT VISION

It is important that you understand how your cat sees the world and fears movement when you are out there searching. This is why they run away when they detect noise and motion.

A cat's daytime vision is very different from ours --both in sharpness and color. [Visit this link to compare various scenes](#) in human vs. cat vision.

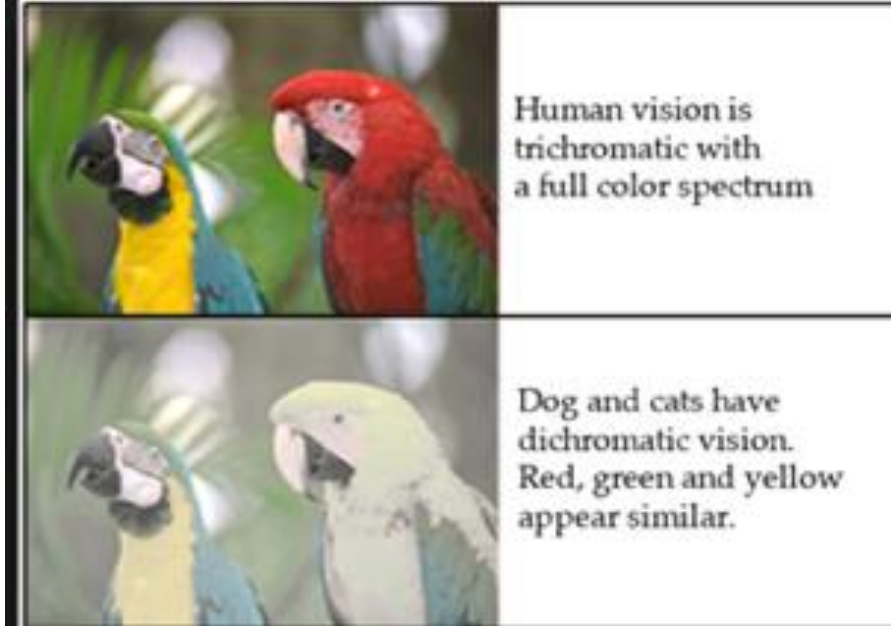
A cat's hearing is one of the best of any land mammal. It is more important to them during the day than vision. Instinctively, anything approaching that is larger than they are is cause for alarm. They do not wait around to see who or what it is. It's too risky. Instinct says, "If it's d coming toward me, run away."

Top image: Human vision

Bottom image: cat vision



COLORS



NIGHT VISION:



=Cat Eyeshine: Tapetum Lucidum

Cats have a special, reflective surface behind their retinas called *tapetum lucidum* (eye shine), that helps them see better in the dark. Most cat eyes glow green, although Siamese and blue-eyed cats' eyes glow reddish light.



What color eyes are you looking for?

- Cats with green or yellow eyes will glow orange or green
- Cats with blue eyes will have a reddish glow

A cat's eye shine can be easily seen with a flashlight, so a few night searches and storm drain checks can be very effective. Not only are cats more active at night, they do not seem bothered by a flashlight beam on them. This [spotlighting](#) technique is used by naturalists and hunters to search for animals at night.

Cats are crepuscular, meaning they're most active at dawn and dusk. Their eyes have eight times more cells for seeing in low light than humans have. This allows them to see in situations where people would be completely in the dark.

Know this when searching at night; cats see you long before you see them.



LET NATURE BE YOUR GUIDE

The birds and squirrels know where your cat is. Let them guide you. Listen for sharp, agitated squawking. Birds make special sounds when there is a cat in the area—so listen for them.

Be aware of angry bird noises. Be especially aware of wrens, mockingbirds and blue jays. [Use this educational info link](#) to learn various bird alarm sounds so you recognize each when you hear them: [Bird Alerts](#).

Squirrels make a chuck-chuck sound followed by a scolding chirp when they see a cat. They flick their tails and watch the cat intently. Follow their gaze and look carefully before moving forward.

TIP Note the difference between a bird spotting a dog vs. a bird watching a cat: [Bird Language](#).

Here's an example of a wren alerting on a cat in bushes: [Bird Alerting on Cat](#).

WATCH agitated birds alerting on a cat in bushes: Here are two examples of a squirrel alarm (scolding a cat): [Example 1](#) [Example 2](#)



FINDING THE CLUES

Determining your cat's direction of travel is key in a lost cat case; so stay observant for clues, especially paw prints and fur fibers.

Always carry your 1,000-lumen flashlight to scan for evidence, especially fur fibers caught under wood fences, on twigs, woodpiles and the edges of decks and screening.

Look for [hind claw marks](#) near tops of fences, keeping in mind most cats can jump 7 times their height.

With deck edges, you'll need to look "low and slow" with a LED flashlight to see a hair. They are rarely visible to the naked eye.

Even if the fur is not your cat's, it tells you where cat trails are in the area. Where one cat goes, others are likely to follow.

Look for smooth ground crawl spots under gates and fence lines where your cat's belly rubbed while wiggling underneath.



EVIDENCE OF PREDATORS

While searching, scan the ground for paw prints, bones and most of all, wisps of fur. If you find one or two little slips of fur, this is probably a sign of a catfight.

If you find many clumps of fur within an area, this could be a sign of a coyote kill. If you have a sample of your cat's fur or poop, you may be able to run DNA testing or fur analysis.

If you live near coyotes and have seen or heard them in the past six months, you may find various bones.

The one to keep an eye out for is the scapula; the shoulder blade on a cat, which is their largest bone.

For a complete cat skeleton, go to [Cat Skeleton](#).

You may come across a jawbone, which could easily be an opossum or raccoon. The easiest way to tell is to count the molars. Cats have only three on each side:



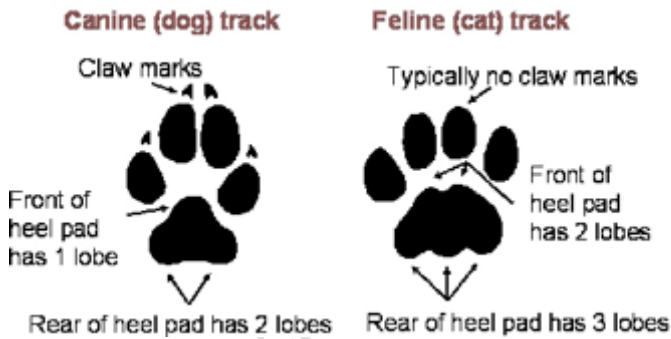
NOTE: If you notice more than one vulture circling AND landing during your search, ask a friend to go check it out, but don't wait.

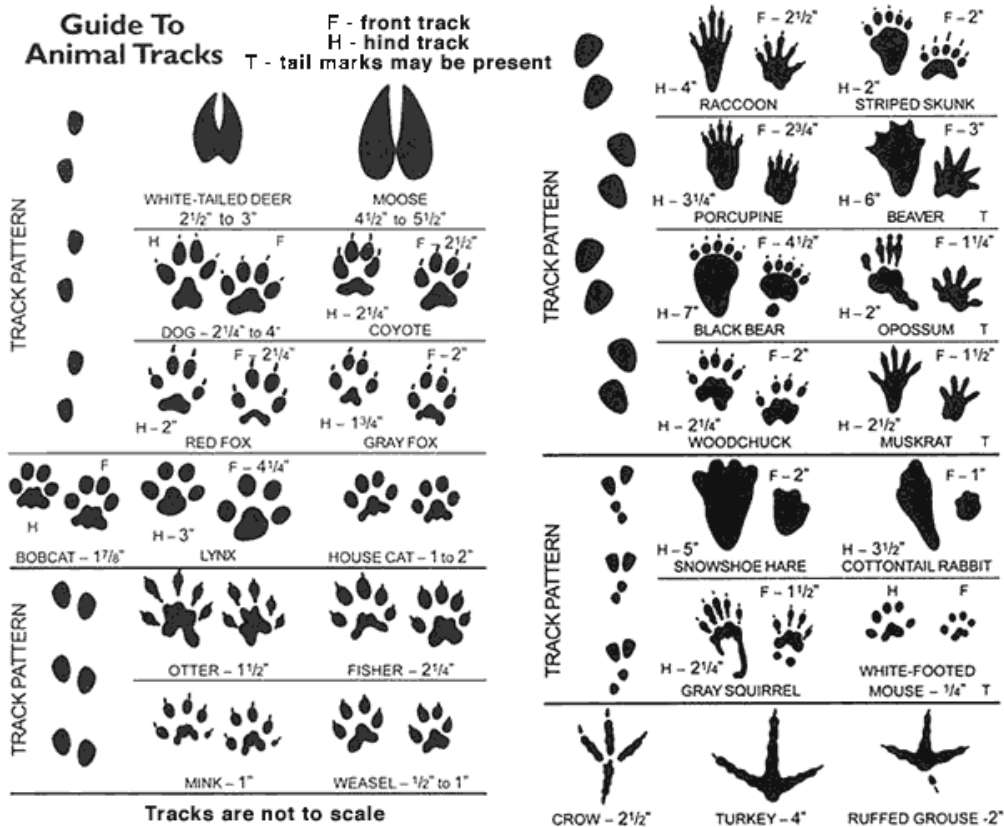
TELL TALE TRACKS

Below is a guide to animal tracks so you can determine whether your cat or other critters are in the area.

If you find a track, face into the sun so the shadows make the contours more visible. See my video (section near the end) to see an example of what a big difference the angle to the sun makes in posting a print.

First, let's review cat vs. dog tracks:





Coyotes?

It is more rare than people think for coyotes to prey on cats. Yes, there are some cases, but coyote scat (feces) analysis data shows that domestic house cats account for less than 3% of coyote diet. Unless you live in Texas or Southern California, the chances that a coyote killed your cat are very slim. Do not listen to the tales and warnings of inconsiderate neighbors unless someone was an eyewitness. Nothing is quite as discouraging as someone who hears your cat is missing and brings up coyotes.

If you feel pretty sure coyotes really are an issue in your area, do not just accept the neighbors' rumors. Call your county's [Fish & Game](#) Department to ask about actual reported sightings within 5 miles over the past year.

Assuming your cat was killed means prematurely giving up when actually there is still a good chance to find your cat before a coyote does. Do not assume your cat was killed unless you find a body or evidence. Keep looking!

My motto, especially in this situation, "Never assume or give up too soon!"

For those in high coyote populations with confirmed recent sightings, here are some details on how to identify coyote presence and tracks and how they differ from dog prints.

Coyote prints:

- Tall, oval shape vs. round
- The negative space between toes and heel pads forms an X
- The two top inner toes are close together. All toenails point forward



Domestic Dog Print



Coyote Print



dog print

coyote print

coyote paw

Domestic Dog track (left): Rounder shape, blunt claws from walking on pavement/indoors. Toes 2 and 3 sit close to heel pad. Toes 1 and 4 point outwards.

Coyote Track B (middle): Oval shape, sharp, pointy claws. Toes 2 and 3 sit on top of 1 and 4, all claws point forward/inward. Lots of negative space between toes 2/3 and heel pad, so an "X" would be easy to draw through the middle. If you can trace a row of prints, the track pattern will be a straight line.

When in doubt, the overall trail pattern is often more important than an individual track. Coyotes travel in straight paths at a steady gait. A pet dog would be exploring in random zigzags, loops and side visits.

Even if you see coyote tracks near your home, don't despair. An indoor escaped cat is most likely well-hidden safely near your home where coyotes will not pick up a scent.

Search for clues in the daytime; lure at night: give your cat peace, quiet and an easy way to get in at night. Remember, the odds are good during the first two weeks your cat is missing that if you leave the door (or window) your cat escaped from open, they will try to return when it's dark and quiet.

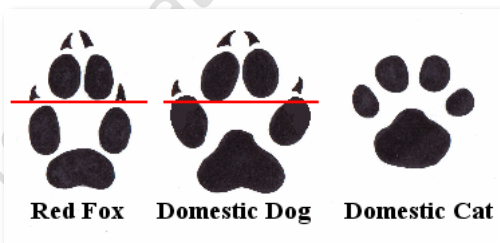


WHAT ABOUT FOXES AND RACCOONS?

If you have seen foxes and raccoons around, do not fret. They rarely kill adult cats. They will, however, compete and fight over food, so **do not** leave morsels around for outdoor cats or you are just inviting trouble.

If your cat goes outside, he is more likely to be killed by a car, a dog or an angry neighbor than taken by a fox or raccoon. Foxes are lone hunters and are usually intimidated by cats, while cats show indifference or no fear of foxes. Also, a fox is more of a scavenger and opportunist. Even finding cat remains in fox scat does not mean the fox killed them; he may have simply scavenged remains.

Wildlife Biologist Stephen [Harris did a study of](#) 5,000 households in northwest Bristol about the number of pet cats that were killed by foxes each year. Results show that a fox **may** kill one feline every six years—although most of those were kittens under six months old.



Note how the pads of the fox print do not overlap like a dog. The inside space is more of a square, unlike other canids.



Signs of Owls

Unless your cat is a kitten or under 6 pounds, it is unlikely an owl carried her away. The only owl able to pick up a cat is the Great Horned Owl, pictured here.

Great Horned owls are serious predators, and usually leave evidence under trees that are essentially the undigested bones and fur of prey they have coughed up.



Owl evidence around the base of a



Remains (probably mouse) a regurgitated



USE ALL YOUR SENSES: Important clues are easy to miss if you are only focused on the shape of a cat. Shift your focus to finding small clues: clumps of fur, signs of recent ground disturbances, as well as rancid odors, green flies, [predator scat](#), and shrill or frantic bird and/or squirrel chatter.

STAY POSITIVE

Visions of worst-case scenarios are going to sap your precious energy and disrupt your motivation. Stay positive and focus on a methodical, detailed search plan. Use your 250 to 500 ft radius map and make notes on it. Note where dogs live, what areas look dark and quiet, and where other cats go.

Get enough rest so you are sharp enough to notice clues. If you find yourself tiring, sign up for coaching, or recruit a friend to be a scout as you search.

You may have unknowingly found your cat twelve times, but she evaded you and slipped away moments before you looked.

Beware of searching TOO aggressively. Remember, cats can evade noise and movement toward them all day long. They do not stop to see who it is, they just run. This is why it is so important to remember this rule of thumb:

SEARCH in the day. LURE at night.

- Use food, flyers and flashlight to **SEARCH** in the day.
- Use darkness + open door to **LURE** your cat home at night.

SEARCH EQUIPMENT



The most important item in your search is a spotlight flashlight; at least 500 lumens. Additional gear that will aid in your recovery efforts are:

- A night-vision motion-activated [wildlife camera](#)
- Humane trap (we recommend [TruCatch](#) brand as they are quieter and less likely to injure a cat's tail)
- Wireless [motion alerts](#) (for doorway and trap monitoring)
- A night vision scope
- A thermal [heat detector scope](#)

-
-
- [*Feliway*](#) pheromone spray for luring/calming cats
 - [Bionic Ear](#) amplified hearing device

THE KEY TOP THREE

You need to know if your cat is in the area, trying to return the way he got out, or the moment something has entered a trap. Three items can cover these key scenarios. Since they are hard to find locally, you may need to order them online. I also rent them out to people who are local with a deposit refunded upon return.

The Key 3 [Trap, wildlife cam and Bunker motion alert](#)



Search gear items can be ordered via Amazon at [my TOOLS page](#).

DIGITAL WILDLIFE CAMERAS

Wildlife cameras are used to study wildlife and their nighttime habits.

I use these silent motion-triggered, night-vision, no-flash infrared cameras to find out where a cat is hiding and what time they come out to eat. Once I get a confirmed image of the cat, I add a trap, with the camera see if your cat approaches the trap, but will not go in.

Just before dusk, set up a smelly food buffet. Mount the camera pointed at the food source. Make sure it's **at least 6 feet away** so you get clear, focused photos.

The camera will snap day and night pics of any animal (or person) who comes to investigate the food. Your cat may well be one of them.

NOTE: If you have to ask permission to set up a camera, be sure to show it to them before you ask and refer to it as a "wildlife camera" or a "[night vision motion alert](#)" so people do not feel they are being spied on. Space the bait bowl at least 6 feet away from the camera to get useful pictures. **Leave the exact escape door open** six inches from 9pm to 9am with lights out to allow your cat a chance to come back on his own. This method has proven very successful if employed within the first 15 days.

AT HOME

Test out your camera at home before putting it outside. Make sure the batteries are working and you understand the angles it captures. You

can use a ¼ inch threaded rod to keep it elevated off the ground to get a better view and avoid bugs and grass triggering it. With cats, it's better to have the camera set a little too low than too high.

Most cameras now record about 5-10 seconds of video, which will show you if they are injured or nervous.

Night images will be black/white while day images will be color. This picture below shows the same cat: night vs. day:



Photo compliments of Danielle Robertson

NOTE: If you have an orange cat, at night they will look white on camera. Do not assume images of white cats are not actually your orange tabby.

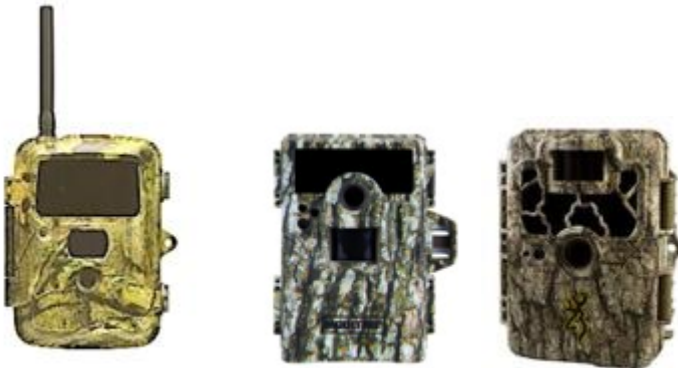
Once you have the batteries and SD card clicked into place, set the camera far enough back from the food so you can determine which direction your cat is entering the scene and leaving. Avoid the area for at least 10 hours before you pull the SD card to see if your cat has visited.



The next day, on a full screen, check each image closely as sometimes you may only see a tail or an ear if the cat walked by but did not stop.

You may want to get two cameras so you have one to monitor feeding stations and traps, and one to use when you get a sighting. It is important to rule out false sightings quickly as it can take up days of time on a wild goose chase.

New on the market are wildlife cameras that will TEXT the pictures to your smartphone. These various models of wildlife cameras can range from \$250 to \$400: Both the regular cam and texting model are listed my TOOLS page [here](#):



Camera models I recommend for cat recovery are linked for order from Amazon [on my TOOLS page here](#).

If you can afford

a texting camera, plus the 12 lithium batteries and \$10/month texting plan, a [texting camera](#) (far left) is well worth the money to have immediate 24/7 info on your cat's whereabouts.

If you can't afford \$55 for a basic new wildlife camera, check eBay and Craigslist for used ones ([scouting cameras on Craigslist](#)) or just borrow one from a hunter or a wildlife biologist.

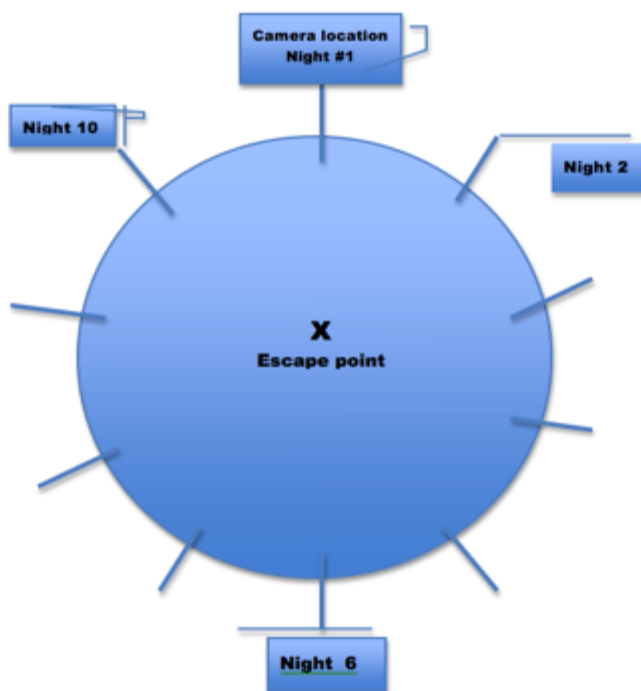
Use the camera & bait anywhere you've had a sighting so you can quickly rule out whether the sighting is really your cat or just one that looks similar. Again, chasing after one false sighting can waste days, so get the camera on the scene as quickly as possible.

Once you have the batteries and SD card clicked into place, it is time to make a plan for where to set the camera up.

WHERE TO SET UP YOUR WILDLIFE CAMERA

If you've had zero sightings or clues on your cat's location, try this 10-Point Grid system. Use your search map (example below) and keep notes on the location and what animals show up at each location. The idea is to start your camera plan at one point in your 250-foot radius, and then each night, move it 200 feet in a clockwise direction:

**Wildlife Camera plan for 250 foot radius of
escape point** (each tick represents 200 feet)



REMEMBER: Set up your bait station (use tuna or mackerel—not dry food) at least five feet from the camera. It needs to be far enough to see the direction your cat is entering and leaving the scene.



TIP: Remember the importance of chumming the bushes, branches or fence line above your trap or camera zone so the breezes catch the scent and broadcast it farther to draw your cat.

Use a black cotton sock (black is less likely to be noticed by people) and soak it in tuna or mackerel juice. Hang it above the trap about 6 to ten feet. Use a new sock each night as the scent will become rancid and repel instead of lure. Take Ziploc baggies to put an old sock into and tongs if necessary. Never leave a chum sock behind or you've left a stink behind that interferes with the new bait. Hang the sock where any drips will land well in front of the entry door, NOT ON the trap. A trap that smells like food is likely to get climbed on by raccoons or a cat, which will set off the trigger, slamming the trap shut and possibly scaring your cat away for good.

PART 7

ADDITIONAL PET FINDER SERVICES

LOST PET NOTIFICATION OPTIONS

There are several automated services that advertise heavily (especially on Craigslist) that they will issue alerts to neighbors with landlines.

While some of these services may be helpful in a cat search, research them first (type the company name + scam report). PAWBOOST is the latest, with a new name and look from its previous name: FINDFido. Pawboost pretends to be free, but they get your email so they can upsell market you. Personally, I think these are a waste of money when you can use nextdoor.com and Facebook for free. Here's what Rob Godard of [HelpingLostPets](#) has to say about them:

“Currently, a new company called Pawboost (also operating as FindFido) is contacting people and inviting them to file a report, asking for their credit card number to “Boost” the post. In some cases they’re hitting on owners as quickly as ten minutes after we post their flyer. They claim their initial services are free but then keep pushing you to “boost” your post. BEWARE! This is a scam. The number of views that they suggest your post will receive are highly overestimated and you may be charged anywhere from \$29.99 to \$99.99.”

COMPANIES TO AVOID

When you search the Internet for lost pet services, one of the first companies listed is Pet Amber Alert—a company that sends out robo-calls to landline numbers.

The pet detective community has heard numerous first-hand complaints about them. Reports make it sound like either a scam or a very badly run business. It has an “F” rating with the Better Business Bureau and may be changing its name from Amber Pet Alert to variations like Pet Amber Alert, Help Me Find My Pet and others.

Read this Scam alert on them [here](#): (but be aware it was posted by another company we have heard complaints about: GetMyCat)

Another one to avoid is Lost Pet Rescue, StrayPetNet and LostPetFinder.net.

They are all heavy Craigslist advertisers and spam-post cute kid and pet pictures with headlines like “Never Give Up!” and, “Get Aggressive in your Search!” and “We are the Lost Pet Experts!”

There are many scam reports on them and they tend to prey on anyone who posts a phone number in a lost pet Craigslist ad. They may claim to offer a search plan, but what they generally offer is a post on their own Facebook page, some robo-calls and faxes to vets.

There is also a company (Lost Pet Rescue AKA The Pet Rescue) who will cold call any phone number listed in Craigslist ads. A heavy accent claims to be the “Lost Pet Experts” and says they will “post to a social media” and send out a “team of professional volunteers” to search 100 miles for your cat.

Here are a few news reports and investigations on them to give you an idea. They pose as being local but are actually in Las Vegas.

Scam reports on Pet Rescue here:

- Kansas City: fox4kc.com

-
- Examiner: examiner.com
 - Chicago: nbcchicago.com
 - St. Louis: kmov.com; [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com); fox4kc.com

You can waste time requesting a refund, but it will take weeks and be partial if you are lucky. Save your money and devote it to your own flyers and gear.

Other notification services may be better, but check them out carefully and beware of disguised, company-created customer review websites meant to make them look legit.

REPUTABLE LOST PET NOTIFICATION OPTIONS

- [Pet Harbor](http://PetHarbor.com)
- [Lost Pet Cards](http://LostPetCards.com)
- [Pet Find USA](http://PetFindUSA.com)
- [EDDM](http://EDDM.com)

For nationwide coverage, definitely file a report with **Pet Harbor** and consider their lost pet postcard option here:

https://petharbor.com/LPP_FAQ.htm

They have a template where you can put in a photo and text about your lost cat, and they will print and mail postcards to your entire zip code at about 70 cents per card.

You can also utilize your local post office. Create your own postcard and have the post office deliver them for you. This is cheaper than postcard companies that usually have a minimum order of 500-1000 cards. For

more info, visit your post office or check [Every Door Direct Mail \(EDDM\)](#).

The screenshot shows the homepage of expresscopy.com. The header includes the company logo, navigation links (HOME, PRODUCTS, SERVICES, PRICE GUIDE, HOW TO, ABOUT, FREE TEMPLATES), and contact information (Customer Login, Create New Account, VIP Support 800-260-0887). The main content area features a large banner for 'Save Over 60% On Postage' with the headline 'Every Door Direct Mail... A New Concept by the Post Office!'. Below this, it lists 'Mail EDDM Postcards for Only 17.6¢' and includes a bulleted list of benefits: 'Targets Every Local Home', 'Save Over 60% on Postage', 'We Print and Mail it For You', 'Same Day Mailing', and 'Free VIP Support'. A 'Start My Order' button is prominently displayed. To the left of the main banner, there are smaller sections for 'Mail Postcards Same Day - 5 Minutes', 'Order Business Cards', and 'Order Flyers'.

This new service allows for saturation on any mail route in the U.S. It is not free, but at 14.5 cents per flyer, it is affordable.

[Here's a story](#) of a successful pet reunion as a result of using the EDDM program.

THE PROS & CONS OF HIRING A SEARCH DOG

When a cat is missing, owners often want to make sure they have done everything possible to find them. Hiring a search dog team to sniff out a cat *seems* to make perfect sense.

Before you make that decision, know there are risks involved. There is a good chance your cat will be frightened of a dog hot on its trail and run even farther away, making them even harder to recover.

In a study of 613 lost pet cases, search dogs were used in 62 searches with a success rate of only 6% percent.

This low find rate for K9 search dogs is discouraging. Occasionally, pet detectives will bring in dogs on cases in which there is a single clear trail and get a direction of travel, which can be useful. But in general, the best tools and methods to rely on for recovering lost cats are [traps](#), [wildlife cameras](#), physical searches, flyers and giant neon posters.

If your cat is indoor-only or skittish this method is not recommended. The more timid the cat, the stronger this caution. Here is what the original Pet Detective, Kat Albrecht of MPP, has to say:

"A trailing dog will not be able to track a lost cat's scent trail older than three to five days.

The problem when working with a cat detection dog is that the dog is likely to "flush" or frighten a cat further.

When an indoor-only cat escapes, we usually do not recommend using the detection dog since we already know the cat is hiding nearby. We do not want to push it into unknown territory. People need to realize that a DOG WILL NOT BRING THEIR CAT BACK

HOME. It might only complicate your efforts to recover him.

Be wary of anyone making extreme claims about their dogs --especially if they claim to be able to track scent older than 10 days.

Before paying any deposit, ask about their percentage of cat "walk-up" finds and request the references to prove them.

For a National Directory of Certified Pet Detectives, check the MPP site at: <http://www.missingpetpartnership.info>

PART 8

A POSITIVE SIGHTING! NOW WHAT?

SIGHTINGS: BE READY FOR CALLS

When someone calls with a potential sighting, Print this page to be ready with these questions. First thank them, then ask:

1. What is the closest address?
2. Can you get a picture?
3. *Can you stay and show me exactly where you saw the cat?*
4. What was the direction of travel?
5. Was the cat wearing a collar?
6. Were there any other animals around at the time?
7. Can I call you back if I think of more questions?

Write down their number and load up a towel, carrier, food, humane trap and wildlife camera.

Ask them to show you exactly where the cat was seen and direction of travel. You can look around for your cat, but avoid excessive stomping around or you may push them out of this this known safe spot. Set up equipment near the place seen but near a wall, fence or bush cover if possible, not out in the open.

A POSITIVE ID?

If they got a photo, but you're not sure if it's your cat, compare the whisker pattern and nose print. A cat's nose triangle is as unique as a

fingerprint and can be used for identification based on the shape, color bumps and ridges. Just like humans have fingerprints, cats have nose prints.



IF YOU SPOT YOUR CAT

You've come so far and gotten so close. This is a crucial time for some patience and finesse. Don't blow it! RESIST the temptation to grab or chase!

Here's is what to do if you SEE your cat:

1. Get down on your knees or sit on the ground.
2. Give your cat a slow blink (how to demo here) and turn slightly at an angle to your cat. If they seem like they may be about to bolt, try another slow blink to calm them and look away.
3. Open the can of food you have with you, and place it on the ground in front of you and stare at it (cats go where you stare) while keeping your cats position in your peripheral vision. Talk softly using your calm Indoor Voice as you would during kitty dinnertime.
4. Use your cat's nickname and sprinkle treats or catnip in front of you. If you are sure you can properly scruff a cat and hold them, have a route/plan to get inside quickly or wrap them up in the towel (watch this tutorial on how to make a secure "[kitty](#)" covering face.

Keep a dark towel on hand that you've sprayed with [Feliway](#) calming spray. Wrap them up so their feet are secured and their head is covered.

The "Kitty Burrito" is a technique you need to practice so you can do it effectively when you find your cat! The towel acts to calm and contain them, much like the blanket you throw once you've caught a cat in a trap. "The less they see, the less they stress."

The key is to contain those hind feet and cover their face. Practice on a stuffed animal or another cat so you get a feel for what's really involved. Watch these demos so you're ready when the time comes:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1cnOYnAppU&feature=em-subsub_digest
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVt_OEVsFTY
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubKHlnsdMDE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HY8XF3FGvaw>

QUICK NO HANDS SCRUFF TECHNIQUE

If you can get close to your cat, but he won't let you pick him up, consider the KITTY ON HOLD clip method I demonstrate on my cat Henry here:

<https://vimeo.com/182654594>

Make sure to test it on your own arm first. It's quick, easy and allows you to get the cat wrapped into a towel while they are in "freeze frame" mode!

NOTE: Only use an XL butterfly hair clip like the one in video and DO NOT leave it on for more than 15 seconds!

HUMANE CAT TRAPPING

Once you have a confirmed sighting or a trail camera has determined where your cat is hiding or hanging out, it's time to catch them. A humane trap is basically a wire cage designed to recover your cat without injury. Food/ bait is placed just past the trip plate to lure them inside. When the cat steps on the trip plate to reach the food, the trigger releases and drops the door, containing your cat safely inside.

TRAP SET UP

While humane traps do not injure, they can still frighten, so the best trap is one with a quiet, smooth mechanism that will not snap shut on a cat's back or tail. I recommend [TRU-Catch traps](#) for this and many other reasons. Yes, you can get cheap raccoon traps at Harbor Freight and [Tractor Supply](#). Ask your local shelters to see if they will loan you a trap or rent one. Here's a list of [local Humane Society locations](#).

If possible, get two traps—each big enough for a cat to stand and turn around in. Having two traps enables you to cover twice the territory in the same amount of time, which means getting kitty home sooner.

NOTE:

Unless your trap is brand new, hose it off with blue Dawn dish soap to remove any other animal smells. Drizzle a stream of soap from bottle into the hose stream. Rinse well to remove any soapy chemical smell. Rotate each side up to dry in the sun 2 hours to kill remaining odors and bacteria.

Remember the Threshold Factor -- a cat's tendency to hide in silence for seven to 14 days. Until they hit their threshold, they may not even see your trap, so do not be discouraged. Keep refreshing the bait and moving the trap for at least two weeks.

It took four months of moving and resetting the trap to recover Miss Kitty and Bebe, so DO NOT GIVE UP too soon!

Below: example of trap prep with food placed at far end of trap, clear of the trip plate and centered in a saucer of water to deter ants.



Here is a short video (2 minutes) on trap prep. These details are important because cats notice EVERYTHING. Details can make the difference between catching them or not. Some cats are skeptical of traps so it is key you get everything right. <http://vimeo.com/222025576>

Cats are cautious and need to be hungry and out of all free food options to enter a trap. REMOVE ALL OTHER FOOD SOURCES and remind your neighbors to take in all food bowls.

IMPORTANT

Once you have caught your cat, immediately throw a blanket over the trap to calm them. The less they see, the less they stress. Take the entire covered trap with cat in it into a room before opening!

If you have never used a humane trap before, do not risk a mishap! You cannot risk a trap malfunction and traumatizing your cat into fearing traps. If your cat gets spooked, you may not get a second chance at this. Watch these two videos before you use a trap! [Demo 1](#)
[Demo 2](#)

TRAP PLACEMENT

Use reported sightings as possible trap locations. Always place your trap alongside a wall, bushes, trees or some kind of cover, never out in the open. Make sure the trap is placed along a wall with opening facing inward (towards darkness) if under a deck.

1. Note on your map any shady areas that would be attractive to your cat such as heavy brush, decks, sheds, basement crawl spaces and garages.

2. Note areas your cat would avoid, such as noisy places and ones that already have resident cats or dogs, all large open areas where predators have been seen.
3. Find the pockets of NO PETS and this may be exactly where your cat is hiding, and a good place to set up a camera/ trap.



WHERE TO PUT THE TRAP

Place the trap in places that offer concealment. Avoid trapping in meadows, fields and other places that are wide open. Frightened, escaped and displaced cats tend to **slink along edges of things**. Good spots to check would be along fence lines, areas heavily protected by brush, near sheds, under decks and other such areas.

If you trap under a deck, place trap along a wall inward facing. If you are using multiple traps, place each trap out of the sight of the other trap; seeing a trapped animal may prevent your cat from entering the second trap.

PERMISSION

If you need to trap on other people's property, show them the trap before you even ask. Call it "A humane trap" or "My HAVAHAART trap" so

they won't imagine the cruel steel leg hold type or worry about their own pets.

ACCIDENTALLY CATCH A NEMESIS CATS?

IF YOU CATCH THE WRONG CAT, have a plan to contain it in your garage or bathroom at least for the night. This cat you caught may be the reason yours is afraid to come home, so getting them off the scene could be the key you need. Remember to throw a blanket or towel over the trap before moving it and never, NEVER dump a cat far from home to get it off the scene. If you cannot keep it hidden and contained at least overnight, ask a friend or set up with a vet or boarding kennel to keep it off the scene while you recover your cat.

TRAP PREPERATION

1. **PRACTICE setting the trap** in your house and familiarize yourself with the door drop, trigger, and trip plate mechanisms. When you set it up outside, you will need get in and out as quick and quietly as possible without disrupting the area too much or scaring your cat away.
2. Make sure trap is steady and flat. Lay a piece of cardboard on the cage floor from entrance to end of trip plate. Cardboard makes the cage floor more comfortable on your cat's paws and avoids leaving a stinky mess on the ground after you've moved the trap to a new location.
3. Next, spray Feliway Comfort Zone Calming Spray over trap and cardboard to make everything smell safe and alluring.
4. **BAIT the trap.** Set your food bowl so it will not get under the trip plate or the trap will not shut. If you want to make a trail up to it, use only liquids so the cat has to come in and step on the trigger plate to get to the food.
5. **Make a CHUM ZONE.** Strain off the juices from a rotisserie chicken or can of mackerel or tuna. Make a "scent flag" to announce the trap location since smell on the ground does not travel very far. Tie

a tuna juice soaked rag or sock on a branch 6 feet above trap or use an eyedropper or syringe to “chum” the area above the trap.

Basically you’re making a “Scent flag” (above trap or camera bait) to announce FOOD IS HERE! Think of it as a **SCENT FLAG** to lure your cat in.

6. **ADD WATER AND BAIT.** Next, put a saucer in the trap, fill it with water to deter ants, and then add a shallow dish of sardines or smelly wet cat food in the center. Make sure the food mounds up above the rim.

Set your food bowl so it will not get under the trip plate or the trap will not shut. If you want to make a trail up to it, use only liquids so the cat has to come in and step on the trigger plate to get to the food.

Find a brick or rock and anchor your flyer on top of trap in case a passerby gets curious about why someone is trapping animals.

With zip ties or pipe cleaners, strap a motion alert ([recommended brand for under \\$30 here](#)) on the ceiling of the trap pointed down at the food. Test to make sure the receiver end will ding inside your house when your cat has entered the trap.

If you do not have a motion alert or wildlife camera yet, sprinkle a layer of white play sand (available at Home Depot for about \$5 a bag) around the trap perimeter so you can see if there were any investigative paw prints in the morning.

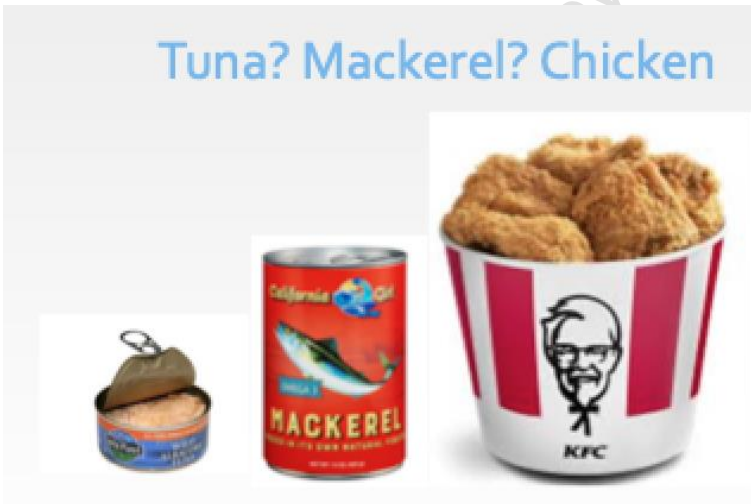
If you catch any other animal, simply release it. Stand straddling the trap and lift the release door to give the frightened creature a clear exit.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Once you have caught your cat, throw a blanket over the entire trap to calm them and immediately transport them into a closed quiet room with no other pets before releasing

BEST BAIT?

Use your cat's favorite food — the smellier the better — something that smells so wonderful your kitty will leave her hiding place get it, even if several houses away. Consider tuna or Mackerel for fish lovers. Mackerel is my favorite bait – it is irresistible to most cats and has plenty of smelly juice for chumming the area. You can find it in cans located in the tuna aisle.



Feral cat trappers swear by Kentucky Fried Chicken (strips, legs or breast) for even the hardest to catch cats. Find a KFC store near you with this store locator at <http://www.kfc.com/storelocator/>. Try a drumstick and string it up to hang in the trap. This is a great lure for even the hardest to catch feral.

Valerian Root Extract Oil. Buy it in dropper or capsules at a health food store, break open the capsule and sprinkle it over your bait. No one

knows why it attracts cats, but be sure to put a saucer or tray of water under it, as it will attract bugs, too.

NOTE: Once you've chummed, be careful not to touch the trap. Dogs or raccoons may sniff or bump the trap, which makes it shut, thus impossible for your cat to enter. Set the trap first, then bait it.

SUMMARY: a cardboard panel on the floor and a motion alert focused on the food. A rock on top keeps the trap steady so it will not wobble when your cat steps in. Motion alerts can also be zip-tied or taped on top, facing DOWN, into the trap so it only goes off when an animal is totally inside.

TOO MANY DINNER GUESTS?

If you keep catching raccoons and opossums, try scattering grapes or a bag of giant marshmallows in a big circle around the trap. You can also set the trap up on a metal card table and smear Vaseline on the legs. Raccoons are climbers but not good at leaping up onto things.

If you catch raccoons two nights in a row, simply move the trap. You're better off finding another likely location for the trap against a wall or cat trail. When in doubt, just put it near your cat's escape (or point last seen.)

TRAP TROUBLESHOOTING

What if the food is gone but trapdoor is still open? Test your trap to be sure you have set it correctly. You can adjust the sensitivity of the trigger to respond to less pressure. Raccoons and smart cats can lean or reach over the trip plate and eat the food. The cardboard covering the ramp should take care of this, but if not, use freshly cooked bacon (or

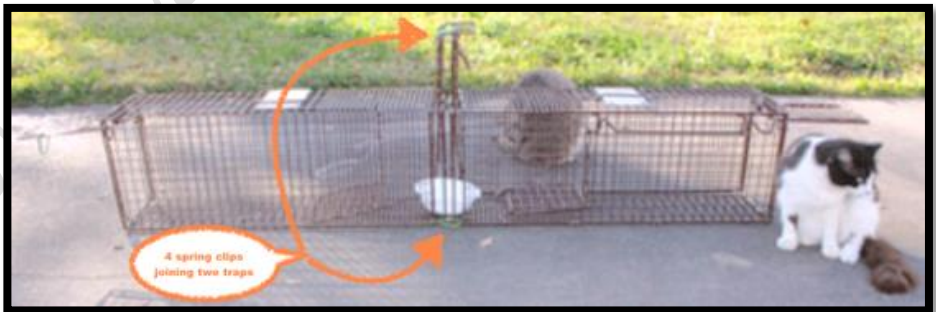
roast beef or chicken) and clip it directly to the trip plate with a clothespin—even a nibble or tap will trip the plate.

Trap is shut but nothing inside? Something probably bumped the trap shut while sniffing it, or jumped on top of it. On some traps like the Havahart, the latch that holds the door open can be bumped (and tripped) from the outside. If the trap is too small, the door may drop on their back instead of closing properly and the cat can simply back out of the trap.

Cat refuses to enter the trap If you know your cat is around but simply refuses to enter the trap, follow the method feral cat rescuers use. First, take a deep breath: this requires PATIENCE!

Make the trap a trusted place to eat. Use bungee cords to hold both ends of the trap open. Put food in or just near the disabled trap at a regular time each evening. Basically, you are training your cat to show up regularly for the food and become comfortable with the trap.

After you are sure your cat is entering the trap to eat, remove bungees and set the trap for real. Another option is a double trap back to back, so the cat sees a clear way through like a tunnel. You WILL need TruCatch traps or ones that open on both ends to do this but it works like crazy even on skeptical cats.



If your cat still refuses to go in an enclosed space, consider putting two together as shown above, or try a [DROP TRAP \(click here for example\)](#).

Drop traps require you to be on site, ready to pull the string when your cat is completely under it. Many cats that are too skeptical to enter a wire trap will gladly walk under something to get to food, so drop traps can be more successful. They do require patience on your part and sometimes several nights of leaving the trap propped up so the cat gets used to going under it. See drop trap and procedure in [action here](#).

How often do you check the trap? You need to avoid walking up on the trap just as your cat was about to enter and scaring him off. Use the 400-foot range wireless motion alert to keep tabs on the trap, or set it up where you can either drive-by with binoculars or see it through a window. If you cannot monitor remotely or from a distance, check it no later than 6 am. Ideally, you would never leave a trap unmonitored for more than 2 hours.

CATNIP?

Do not be tempted to put catnip in or around your trap as cats can get giddy and start rolling around, bumping the trap, setting it off and scaring them away. You CAN use a catnip spray or gel with a wildlife camera as bait if you're worried that smelly food bait will attract in coyotes or loose dogs.

KEY NOTE:

Your cat is out there. They can survive California fires, transportation on truck axles, freezing cold and intense heat. Keep yourself strong so you can focus and rested so you are thinking clearly. Stay positive so you don't give up.

If you need support or a fresh perspective, reach out to other animal lovers or contact me for ideas and support.

ONCE YOUR CAT IS HOME

Words cannot describe the joy and relief when your cat is found and back home in your arms. Everyone is excited and wants to feed them. However, take the following measures to help your cat settle without the health risks.

- Put them in a quiet room with no other pets.
- Give them their space. They have just been through an ordeal and do not want to be smothered. It may take anywhere from a few hours to a few days for them to calm down and return to normal.
- If you have other cats, keep them separated for at least two days. The missing cat does not "smell right" to the others so hissing and fights are likely until your cat smells like home again.
- Get some unscented "Pet Wipes" and as soon as your cat is okay with being touched again, wipe him down (especially face and paws) to get the smell of the outside world off and remove the foreign odors that can cause fights.
- Let him groom (do not bathe or you remove important natural oils that smell like him).
- Upon reuniting with other pets, feed them on each side of a door then eventually next to each other. Try something very enticing such as baked/roast/fried chicken that is warm and irresistible.



If they are still hissing, just give it time and let them work it out. Do not treat any cat differently than before; just intervene if actual fighting

occurs. Break it up with towel or a shout, stomp + handclap, all at the same time.

- Get your cat checked by a vet and micro-chipped (if they are not already). Ask vet to check liver and kidney values as hepatic lipidosis is a risk.
- If your cat might have eaten bugs or rodents, mention this link to your vet and request to have your cat checked for this parasite: [scribd.com -C-F-Spirometra-Infection-in-cats-and-dogs](https://scribd.com/-C-F-Spirometra-Infection-in-cats-and-dogs)

Resist the temptation to overfeed. Give your cat plenty of water but do not overfeed or they can become sick. If your cat was starved for more than two days, beware of re-feeding syndrome. Your cat may be ravenous, but too much food at once can cause serious complications.

FOOD PLAN

Use this feeding guide developed by a vet to help your cat recover safely.

FIRST TEN DAYS: Give 1.5 cups total of dry + wet food over 6 small meals per day.

SECOND WEEK: Give the same amount at 4 meals a day for a week.

THIRD WEEK: Give 1+ 1/4 cups wet and dry food at three meals a day.

Once your cat is settled, wiped down and fed, capture the moment with a smiling (or tears of joy) reunion photo with your cat back in your arms!

Seeing reunions is why I do this and keep me going. Even a simple, sweet head bump means the world to me so [email me](#) a happy reunion photo with the good news:

MY KITTY IS HOME!!



PART 10

RANDOM TIPS & KEY REMINDERS

1. Remember: displaced cats remain concealed and silent for protection. Search your own property first, especially in obvious places like under the bed and inside any containers stored underneath. A cat was found in a cardboard box he slipped into but the flaps prevented him coming back out. Another actually got into the small hole from where an electrical outlet had been. She stayed totally quiet until the owner brought in a new kitten, which caused her to growl and reveal her hiding place. Another was found in a wall accessed from the attic.
2. Remember: A cat's clavicle is not attached, so they can go from "Solid to Liquid" to get into tiny spaces. If you can fit your fist in it, a cat can squeeze into it. Check every crack and crevice on your property even if it is only inches high. Example: cat slides through a crack under a door:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGvEJRPITXY>
3. On the first night missing, use a flashlight and look for eye reflections including up trees. Check the nearby high-probability areas carefully (like under decks and sheds) both in the day and again for two nights. Sometimes cats have a day hiding spot but a different one at night. After one to two nights of flashlight searching, keep your active searching to daylight hours and use the peace of nighttime to lure, whether back home or into a trap. After 8pm, it is best to leave the scene in total peace and quiet so your cat will emerge from hiding and return home.

REMINDER: If your cat has been missing less than a month, leave the door your cat escaped from propped OPEN with LIGHTS OUT so she can return when she's most likely to try: between 9pm and 9 am.

This is the simplest, most effective method of recovery when an indoor cat escapes. Not doing it cuts your chances in half.

Your cat WANTS to get back home to safety; give them an easy way to do it. Set up a [Bunker motion alert](#) so you will know the moment they are home and can close the door.

4. Leave the escape door propped open while you are out searching. Have someone there but not right by the door. If you unwittingly flush your cat out of hiding, he may bolt for home, so leave him a way to get safely inside! No one should be lurking near the door or he may run right back out again!

During the night, make sure porch light is OFF as well as the light inside the door. Cats feel safer in the dark and it also keeps bugs from being attracted.

4. Avoid being discouraged by uninformed sources. They can be discouraging and cruel. It may feel like you're searching for a needle in a haystack, but remember your cat is probably very close, but unlike a needle in a haystack, may be moving around.
5. Keep searching shelters and checking their website photos for two years after your cat's disappearance ([case example](#)).
6. Have patience. Cats will "go underground" and hide for many days because they're so frightened. They need to hit their particular threshold where hunger and thirst drive them out of hiding (average = 10 to 17 days).
7. Only call your cat when searching a high probability or enclosed area like a garage or shed. It's unlikely they'll respond until they hit their Threshold point, so do not assume they're not there if you do not hear a response!

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8. When calling, use your quiet, indoor “dinnertime” voice. Some people have been able to just sit and talk or sing and lure their cats out of hiding.
 9. After each call, stop and listen for at least 11 seconds for a reply or rustling—especially if you are at the “magic” ten-day threshold mark.
 10. Ask children in your neighborhood to be on the lookout but remind them, DO NOT CHASE. Make sure they know they can get the reward by watching the cat and calling you to come get him.
 11. Use a high-powered flashlight (at least 500 lumens) to search at night when your cat may be more active and feel less threatened. Look for eye reflections within a two-block radius of your home. Check under cars.

Reminder: If you have a cat with blue eyes, the tacitum lens reflects back red in the dark. If your cat has yellow eyes, it reflects back as green.

12. Cat Speak: Approach a lost cat slowly and with care. [Use the slow blink and other cat-calming signals](#) before approaching. It is better to lure them to you. Remember, your cat is going to be very wary of anything, even you, coming at them.
13. Humane cat traps are just that. Do not be afraid to use them. This method recovers thousands of cats. Remove all other sources of food or it may be impossible to trap him.
14. **Don't** be tempted to give up too soon. Not everyone will be supportive, but as we've seen, cats can remain in hiding for months.
15. No sightings do NOT mean your cat is not in the area.

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16. Go over this booklet again, make notes and a map to keep you on track.
 17. For show-and-tell advice, watch my “How-To” video, which came with your book purchase.
 18. For custom lost cat case [profiling](#) and coaching, write me at LostCatFinder@gmail.com

REMEMBER YOUR CAT’S-EYE VIEW

Use these strategies specific to your cat’s personality to THINK LIKE A CAT. Imagine your cat’s-eye view and where you would hide if you were them.

If you have put up posters, distributed flyers and set traps for more than three nights with no sightings or clues, your cat could be transported or stuck somewhere. Consider hiring a professional Lost Cat Detective for detailed tracking and search and rescue assistance.

Keep looking, get help when you need it, and above all, do not give up hope! Your cat is counting on you.

For personal advice on your cat’s case, start here

<http://www.lostcatfinder.com/lost-cat-report---profile-form>



WHAT NOT TO DO DURING A SEARCH

1. Don't litter. No matter where you live, do not put a kitty litter box outside.
2. Don't spray urine in the yard.
3. Don't drive or walk the neighborhood calling your cat or shaking treats. You risk drawing the cat farther away like the Pied Piper.
4. While searching, do not shout or call unless you see your cat. Only call from home and in your own yard or inside a closed space.
5. Don't walk barefoot in an area to "disperse your scent" or go stomping through bushes calling--especially if you have a skittish indoor cat. Not only is your scent all over everything confusing, the noise will push them away. Your house smells more like you than anything else, so use the actual scent of home as a beacon simply by propping the windows and the escape door open.

PART 11

INTERESTING CASE STORIES & RESOURCES

Actual missing cat cases can give you clues on your own. This first one shows why it is crucial to follow the checklist in Chapter One:

Cats can survive weeks without food & water: Calico presumed escaped, was actually trapped in a blanket chest for 9 weeks:

[Seattletimes.com](http://seattletimes.com)

MISSING CAT: ACCIDENTALLY TRANSPORTED: [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

LOST CAT: CHASED FROM TERRITORY: [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

SAGE Missing 27 days without a single sighting: [Sonic.net](http://sonic.net)

Services to help with grief if you find your cat deceased:

www.petloss.org

IAMS Pet Loss Support Line: (888) 332-7738

Pet Loss Hotline: (800) 565-1526

Cat hating neighbor? Recommend or give this device so your cat avoids their yard: Scarecrow device to offer cat haters:

Neighborhoodcats.org

Information, statistics, inspiration and acknowledgements go to the original Pet Detective who pioneered the field in 1996, bringing ethics and practical applications to the science of searching for lost pets, Kat Albrecht, founder, Missing Pet Partnership: Missingpetpartnership.org

For personal advice on your Lost Cat case, check my availability, then email me a **Missing Cat Report** as a WORD or GOOGLE document to me at: lostcatfinder@gmail.com. The cost for a custom consult is \$150 and available on [this page](#) of my website: or you can request a mini

quick question consult using a honor system at
www.lostcatfinder.com/donations

[Click here for the LINK FOR MY LOST CAT TIPS VIDEO NOTES](#)

YOUR NOTES