



**VI FINDER HUND**  
FRIVILLIGT GENFORENINGSARBEJDE

# **Guide for Dog Owners: What to Do if Your Dog Goes Missing**

## **1. Introduction**

Losing a dog can be distressing, but taking the right steps can significantly increase your chances of being reunited. This guide offers practical advice on immediate actions, search strategies, luring techniques, community involvement, and understanding lost dog behavior. The aim is to help you act effectively while avoiding common mistakes that could scare your dog away.

## **2. Immediate Actions**

When you realize your dog is missing, it's vital to stay calm to make clear decisions. Panic can hinder your ability to act. Start by:

**Stay calm:** Take a deep breath to focus. A calm mindset helps you plan and carry out the search effectively.

**Search the area:** Search within 2 km from where your dog was last seen. Check backyards (with permission), parks, garages, sheds – dogs can hide in surprising places.

**Avoid chasing or calling:** If you see your dog, don't call its name or chase. This may cause fear and drive it further away.

**Notify the authorities:** Report the missing dog to the police at 114.

## **3. Search Strategies**

**Use your dog's instincts like hunger and smell to your advantage:**

**Feeding stations:** Place wet food and water where your dog was last seen. A wildlife camera in a quiet spot can help track activity.

**Strong-smelling food:** Use canned dog food, meat, or tuna to attract the dog.

## **4. Luring Techniques**

To lure a scared dog, you must appear non-threatening:

Calming signals: Sit down, avoid eye contact, speak softly and move gently.

Food lures: Use treats in a crinkly bag, toss them gently without reaching out.

Familiar scents: Place your worn clothes or dog's bedding outside.

Sing instead of calling: Singing sounds less alarming than shouting.

## **5. Community Involvement**

Activate your community to help:

Flyers: Use a clear photo and phone number. Hang them in stores, vet clinics, and notice boards.

Facebook posts: Share in local groups, but avoid giving too many details. Do not mention the dog's name — strangers might call out and scare it.

Door-to-door: Inform neighbors and hand out flyers. Ask them not to call or chase the dog.

## **6. Understanding Lost Dog Behavior**

Learn how temperament and surroundings affect a dog's behavior:

Sociable dogs: Friendly dogs stay nearby and are often found quickly.

Reserved dogs: Cautious and keep distance — require more time and food-based lures.

Fearful dogs: Panicked and shy — require silence, traps and patience.

Escape causes: Open gates, strong instincts, loud noises (fireworks, thunder), or trauma.

Travel range: Influenced by weather, terrain, population density and temperament.

## **7. Additional Tips**

- Don't give up — especially with shy or nervous dogs, it can take time.
- Leave the garden gate and house door open at night so the dog can return on its own.
- Rewards may help — but be careful not to attract scammers.

## **8. Conclusion**

Finding a lost dog requires quick action, understanding behavior, and patience. With calm, strategic methods and community help, you increase the chance of a happy reunion.