LOST DOG EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Stay calm. Act quickly. Work the plan. Your goal is to create sightings, follow evidence and make it easy for your dog to get home.

DOG: _____	**LAST SEEN:** _____	**TIME:** _____
PHONE: _____	**MICROCHIP:** _____	**DATE:** _____

FIRST 20 MINUTES - SEARCH CLOSE, FAST

- **Search the house and property:** rooms, garage, shed, under decks, bushes, vehicles, pool area and anywhere your dog could be trapped.
- **Establish the last confirmed place and time** your dog was physically seen. Work out how they escaped.
- **Search immediate streets on foot.** Take a leash, high-value treats, favourite toy and phone. Check under cars, hedges, porches, drains and familiar walking routes.
- **Have someone drive nearby streets slowly and safely.** Your dog may recognise your vehicle, engine, doors or familiar phrases.
- **Keep someone at home if possible.** Your dog may return while everyone else is searching.

FIRST HOUR - CREATE MORE EYES

- **Knock on neighbours' doors.** Ask them to physically check backyards, garages, sheds and under decks.
- **Ask for doorbell/security-camera footage.** Record the exact time, street and direction your dog travelled.
- **Divide the jobs:** foot search, car search, home coordinator, online alerts/phone calls.
- **Post a clear LOST DOG alert** in local lost-pet and community groups. Include photo, area, time, phone number and behaviour.
- **Report the microchip as missing** where available and verify every phone number, email and address.

FIRST 2-4 HOURS - BUILD THE RECOVERY NETWORK

- **Contact local shelters, animal control/local authority, nearby vets, emergency vets and rescue groups.** Send a clear photo and your number.
- **Make big roadside posters:** LOST DOG + LARGE PHOTO + PHONE NUMBER. If frightened, add DO NOT CHASE - CALL/TEXT SIGHTINGS.
- **Start a sightings log:** time, exact location, direction, behaviour, witness and phone number.
- **Answer unknown calls.** Keep your phone charged and voicemail available.

IF YOU SEE A FRIGHTENED DOG: DO NOT CHASE

Stop pursuing. Stay calm. Turn partly sideways, avoid looming or intense eye contact, lower yourself if safe, use familiar food and give the dog space to approach. Tell helpers to report sightings rather than surround or chase the dog.

FIRST NIGHT / FIRST 24 HOURS - FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE

- **Map confirmed sightings.** Look for a route or repeated area rather than searching randomly farther away.
- **Search quieter periods safely.** Take a torch and listen as well as look. Never enter dangerous roads, railways or restricted areas.
- **Deliver detailed flyers door-to-door.** Specifically ask people to check sheds, garages, yards and camera footage.
- **Alert people who move around locally:** postal and delivery workers, dog walkers, gardeners, local businesses, schools and council/local authority workers.
- **Re-check shelters, vets and found-pet listings.** Do not assume one phone call is enough.

IF SIGHTINGS KEEP OCCURRING IN ONE AREA

- **Stop flooding the area with searchers.** A frightened dog repeatedly returning to one location is valuable information.
- **Consider a controlled feeding/water point** in a safe location and at consistent times.
- **Use a motion/trail camera** to learn when and from which direction the dog returns.
- **Seek experienced recovery help.** Lost-dog volunteers, rescue groups or animal control may advise on a controlled recovery or properly monitored humane trap.

WHEN SOMEONE REPORTS A SIGHTING, ASK:	DON'T FORGET:
Where exactly? What time? Which direction? Walking or running? Did anyone approach? Can you still see the dog? Can you stay at a distance? Can you send a photo/video?	Keep one coordinator. Update the original social post. Mark sightings CONFIRMED vs POSSIBLE. Refresh damaged posters. Beware of scammers claiming to have your dog - ask for proof before sending money.

KEEP GOING. No sighting today does not mean there will not be one tonight or tomorrow. Stay organised, keep checking, and let confirmed information guide the search.