



What To Do If Your Dog Has Escaped From Home

Stay calm and act immediately, follow this step-by-step plan:

- 1) Check all exit routes. Are all doors and gates closed? Is there a hole in the fence or an obvious escape route?
- 2) Call a family member or friend to help you search.
- 3) Search your home and garden thoroughly. Use this checklist

Places to check	Checked?
Under or behind furniture, sideboards, sofas, chairs, beds etc.	
In cabinets, cupboards and wardrobes	
Behind appliances	
Under decking or under house/porch, basement	
Attic or eave space	
Areas of construction	
Outbuildings, garage, sheds or barns	
Pools, wells, ponds, hot tubs or filters	
Fences, between, gaps or damaged sections	
Laundry baskets	
Vehicles, under or inside	
Hiding places, do they have a favourite place to hide?	
Holes in wall, broken floorboards etc. area awaiting repair	
Shrubs or areas of dense undergrowth	

If your dog was recently seen making their escape you can miss out the stage of searching your home but it is wise to check just in case they have returned. This is especially relevant if they have been missing for several hours. We recommend that a family member stays at home so there is someone home if the dog does return. They can continue searching the interior and exterior of the house from top to bottom.

- 4) Find a photograph of your pet which clearly shows their colouring, size and shape. If you don't have one, search the internet for a similar looking dog to show people.
- 5) Give clear contact information so any witnesses can get hold of you immediately. The phone number you provide must be answered at all times of day or night. A mobile number is ideal. Write it out on paper to hand to people as you search.
- 6) Begin a wider area search. Knock on your neighbour's doors to ask for sightings. Start with the houses closest to you and ask to search the back gardens. Take the phone

number of anyone who has seen your dog. Carry a notebook to write down directions of travel and sighting information. Leave your phone number with people and keep on searching. Dogs are often found next door!

Places to check in your neighbourhood	Checked?
Under decks or under house/porch, basement	
Areas of construction	
Outbuildings, garage, sheds or barns	
Pools, wells, ponds, hot tubs or filters	
Vehicles, under or inside	
Fences, between, gaps or damaged sections	
Holes in wall, broken floorboards etc., area awaiting repair	
Shrubs or areas of dense undergrowth	

- 7) Instruct everyone who is helping to search for your dog not call or chase them. This could prolong the search. Ask them to call you, the GSPCA or educate them on how to sit or lay down with no eye contact and gently try to lure the dog in.
- 8) Contact [Search Dogs Guernsey](#) for help and advice on finding your dog. We are here to help.

Check your phone regularly!