STEP ONE

Thoroughly search your home and garden. A frightened cat will not respond to the owner's voice, so the search must be very calm and thorough.

Super Search Strategies

Search at your cat's level. Check under bushes, cars, decks, gardening sheds and equipment. Since cats can fit into the smallest of spaces, leave no stone unturned!

Look on top of shelving and inside and on roofs, etc. where your cat may have jumped or climbed and not felt safe to come down.

Search using a flashlight as your cat's eyes will shine, particularly at night. Unless your cat was chased he is most likely very close in a dark concealed place.

Sit quietly in the yard, speak in a conversational tone to encourage him to come out of his hiding place. This works best after dark.

Leave a window or door open so that your cat may find his way in.

STEP FOUR

Contact the microchip company your cat is registered with to check the details are correct, and let them know your cat is missing. Not sure which company your cat is registered with?

- If you know the microchip number, you can visit www.petaddress.com.au to search for your pet's microchip database.

- If you don't know the microchip number, contact your vet or any of the following databases:

  - Australasian Animal Registry 02 9704 1450
  - Central Animal Registry 03 9706 3187
  - HomeSafeID 1300 537 140
  - Petsafe 02 8850 6800
  - Global Micro Animal Registry 02 8338 9063
  - NSW residents only - Companion Animal Register 1300 134 460
  - SA residents only - Dogs and Cats Online www.dogsandcatsonline.com.au

STEP TWO

Ask your neighbours if you can search their properties.

Search a minimum of 5 homes from yours in ALL directions. 94% of indoor cats and 84% of outdoor cats are found within this range.

STEP THREE

Make simple fliers to distribute to your neighbours in a 5-10 house radius AND giant neon posters for street poles or in local shops. Include LOST CAT, a PHOTO of your cat, YOUR PHONE NUMBER and any unique features (people driving past will have 5 seconds to read it, so 5 words max).

You can download an A4 flier/poster template by visiting www.g2z.org.au/lost-pets.html - be sure to check with your Council on laws related to displaying community posters.

Write a simple message on your car's back window (large print using bright-coloured, water-based chalk markers).

STEP FIVE

Contact ALL your local shelters and pounds and vet clinics on the first day.

Visit to view all the cats in the pounds/shelters every 1-3 days in case your cat is brought in.

STEP SIX

Utilise local lost-and-found and community web and social media sites to list your lost pet.

STEP SEVEN

REPEAT THE ABOVE STEPS AND DON'T GIVE UP!

Cats are often found weeks or months after they go missing.

STEP EIGHT

When you find your cat:

- Thank and share your happy news with your neighbours, vets and businesses.
- Take down posters.
- Share the strategies you've learned with others to help them find their cats.
- Help prevent losing your cat again by keeping your cat safe indoors or with cat-safe fencing.
- More information on cat-safe fencing and enclosures is available here - https://bit.ly/CatSafeBooklet

Increase chances of recovery if he does escape:

- Up-to-date microchip.
- Elasticised collar with tag and current phone number.
- Desex your cat (desexed cats are more likely to be found than undesexed cats).

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

www.missionreunite.org

www.scaredycats.com.au/find-lost-cat/

www.petmd.com/cat/care/guide-finding-lost-cat

www.lostpetfinders.com.au

Although you hopefully will never lose your cat, it's important to be prepared. Record your cat's microchip details here.

_____
Microchip database company

_____
Phone number of your microchip company

_____
Your cat's microchip number

_____
Date last checked details were up-to-date

THIS RESOURCE IS A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT BETWEEN

AWLQ
Creating a brighter future

Animal Welfare League Qld
Est. 1959

AWLQLD.COM.AU @AWLQLD

G2Z
GETTING 2 ZERO

Australian Institute of Animal Management

www.g2z.org.au

www.aiam.org.au

LOST YOUR CAT?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KEEP HANDY IN CASE YOUR CAT GOES MISSING

Don't delay! Start searching straight away!