



## Trapping Checklist for Lost Dogs

**IMPORTANT!** Trapping with a humane trap is one of the most effective methods for recovering a scared lost dog. However, if you set a humane trap and do not monitor it properly, you risk possible injury or death to your dog or other animals (including other peoples' pets). Potential risks include hypothermia, heat stroke, injury from a wild animal and theft/rescue by a person. To reduce this risk, it is recommended that you conduct constant surveillance of the trap either in person or via remote surveillance such as a trap alarm, video monitor or wireless wildlife camera. If this is not possible, then you should frequently check the trap at least every four hours. In extreme heat or cold, you should check the trap more frequently and provide adequate water and/or shelter.

### 1. Selecting a Trap

- Make sure that the trap is big enough! If your dog steps on the trip plate, will their entire body be inside the trap door? If not, the trap is too small, and your dog will likely escape the trap and may not return.
- Is the trap made of quality materials? Cheaply made traps often bend and may allow your dog to escape.
- Does the trap have a rear door? This is not a necessity, but it makes baiting and releasing wildlife much easier!

### 2. Supplies Needed

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Humane trap</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bait for the trap</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Small bowl or plate for bait (Don't use a can!)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Tarp or contractor bag to place over the trap if rain is possible</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Lost Dog sign to place near the trap</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper, cardboard, rug fragment or towel to line the bottom of the trap</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Scent article from home (e.g. blanket or clothing)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cable lock to prevent theft</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Monitor for the trap (e.g. driveway alarm, video monitor or wireless camera)</li></ul> |
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### 3. Where to Place the Trap

- Try to get several sightings in the same location before setting a trap.
- Do not place the trap in an open area. Lost dogs are often frightened and prefer to stay near cover. This also reduces the chance of a person seeing the trap and stealing it.
- If trapping somewhere other than your own yard, make sure to get the property owner's permission.

### 4. Setting the Trap

- Make sure the trap is level and does not wobble. This may scare your dog!
- Line the bottom of the trap with a folded newspaper, piece of cardboard, rug fragment or small towel. Some dogs do not like walking on the wire. If used, make sure this does not move when stepped on or blow in the wind. Alternatively, line the trap with some dirt, snow or vegetation from the area.
- Do not cover the trap with a towel or blanket unless your dog is used to a covered kennel. However, if you expect rain, then cover the top and sides of the trap with an unscented plastic bag or tarp. Then cover that with a dark colored towel or small blanket; this keeps the plastic/tarp from making noise. Do not cover the back of the trap. Dogs are more likely to enter a trap if it looks like a tunnel that they can walk through.
- Add a scent article (e.g. clothing or blanket) that smells like your dog or someone that your dog is bonded with. Place this on the floor of the trap in front of the trip plate.
- Test the trap. Make sure that the trap liner (if used) and food bowl do not interfere with the trip plate going down and/or the trap door fully shutting. This is very important!

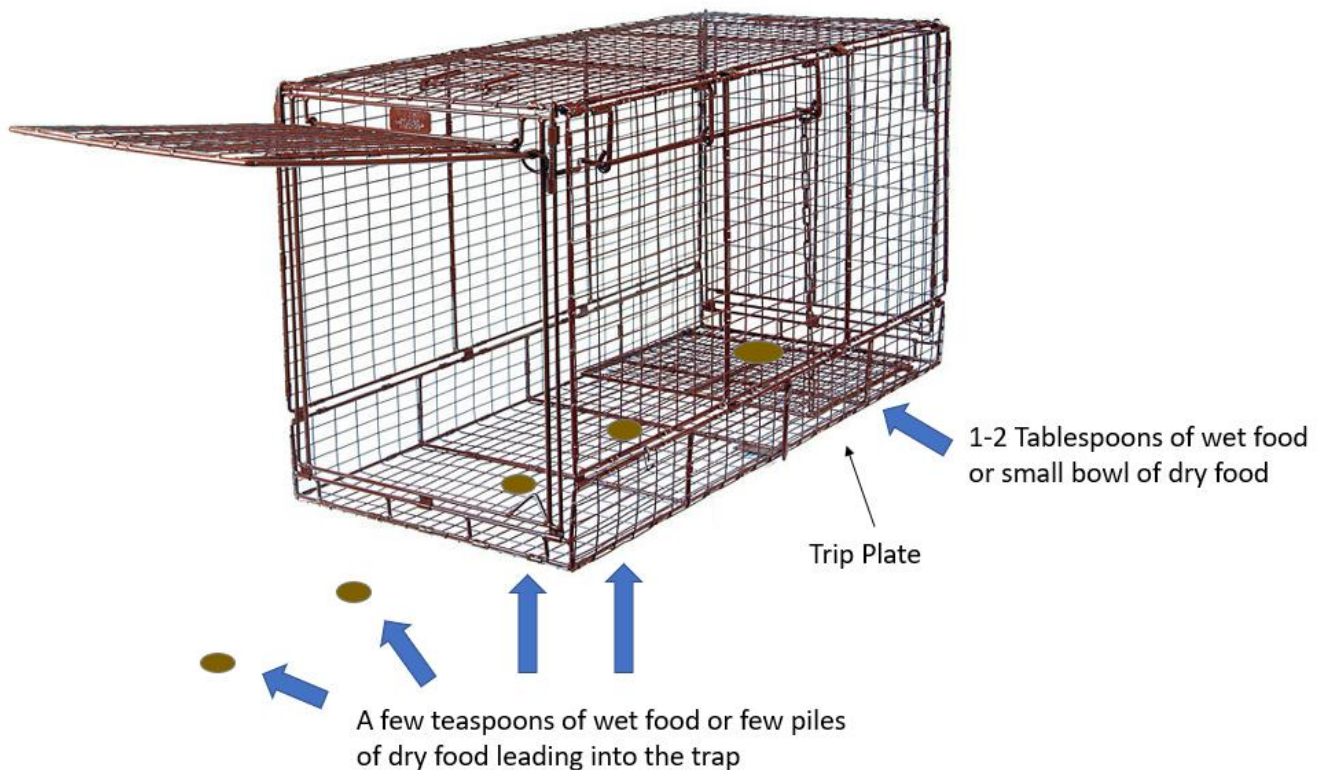
### 5. Baiting the Trap

- Use food that you know your dog really likes, but preferably moist or stinky food. Some options are hotdogs, fried chicken (without bones), fast food chicken nuggets and French fries, bacon or sardines.
- Place a teaspoon of wet food or several pieces of dry food about 1-2 feet in front of the trap, right in front of the trap and halfway inside the trap (Figure 1). This will help lure your dog inside.
- Place several tablespoons of wet food or a small pile of dry food behind the trip plate in the back of the trap. Put the food in a small bowl or on a piece of paper plate or cardboard.
- Make sure that the plate/bowl does not touch the trip plate or prevent it from going down. Also make sure that the food is not too close to the back of the trap or animals may pull the food out through the wire.

## 6. Important Notes!

- Have a plan for releasing wildlife before you catch anything. Traps with rear doors are best. It is against the law in most states to release wildlife someplace other than where you caught them.
- Some dogs panic when trapped. If your dog appears panicked, then cover the trap with a sheet. Even if your dog appears calm, do NOT risk opening it outside. If at all possible, carry the trap indoors before opening it. If you can't, then attach 1-2 slip leads on your dog through the wire before opening the door.
- In addition to baiting the trap, consider adding extra food odor to the area. Barbeque some meat near the trap or microwave some bacon on paper towels and hang them in the trees. Pour some liquid smoke or bacon grease leading up to the trap.

Figure 1.



*Release of Liability: Lost Pet Research & Recovery accepts no liability for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of information provided in this checklist. By reading and using this checklist, you are releasing Lost Pet Research & Recovery and the distributors of this plan from all liability and accepting full responsibility for the search for your lost cat.*

**This is only a very brief list of search actions. There is much more that you could be doing to find your lost dog!** Visit Lost Pet Research & Recovery ([LostPetResearch.com](http://LostPetResearch.com)) for additional lost cat resources and professional search and recovery services.