

MY DOG IS MISSING – what can I do?



First step: **STAY IN THE AREA**

Stay at the spot where your dog went missing. Do not chase after your dog, do not shout around, and do not move too far from the location it ran away. The more searching is done, the more scent is spread, making it difficult for the dog to orient itself.

It may take hours for the dog to return to the location it went missing from, so prepare accordingly:

Have food, drinks, warm clothing, a power bank, rain protection, etc., brought to the location. Familiarizing your dog with the car can also be helpful, especially during cold seasons, for a potentially long night.

Wait patiently without walking around or shouting.

Use the waiting time to inform important contacts:

Police, animal shelters, veterinarians, hunters, road maintenance, Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB), Tasso/Animaldata & Co, city/township, tourist information, ASFINAG, etc.

Create a flyer, print it in large quantities, and have family/friends/acquaintances distribute them. An example flyer can be found on page 3.

Once again, the goal is to avoid spreading the scent of the owner everywhere, so involve helpers.

Lay scent trails leading back to the run away location. A description can be found on page 2.

If your dog returns to the location, remain calm, make yourself small/squat down, do not stare at him, try to calm yourself, speak softly, let him come to you.

Do not approach him, do not call loudly, do not attempt to grab the collar/harness.

If there is a compelling reason that prevents you from waiting at the location, we can recommend several options:

Leave your **car** with an open side door or trunk and label it with a flyer indicating that the vehicle is parked here for a missing dog. Equip your dog's spot with a blanket and food. An additional wildlife camera will show you whether your dog has been there or if other animal guests are passing by.

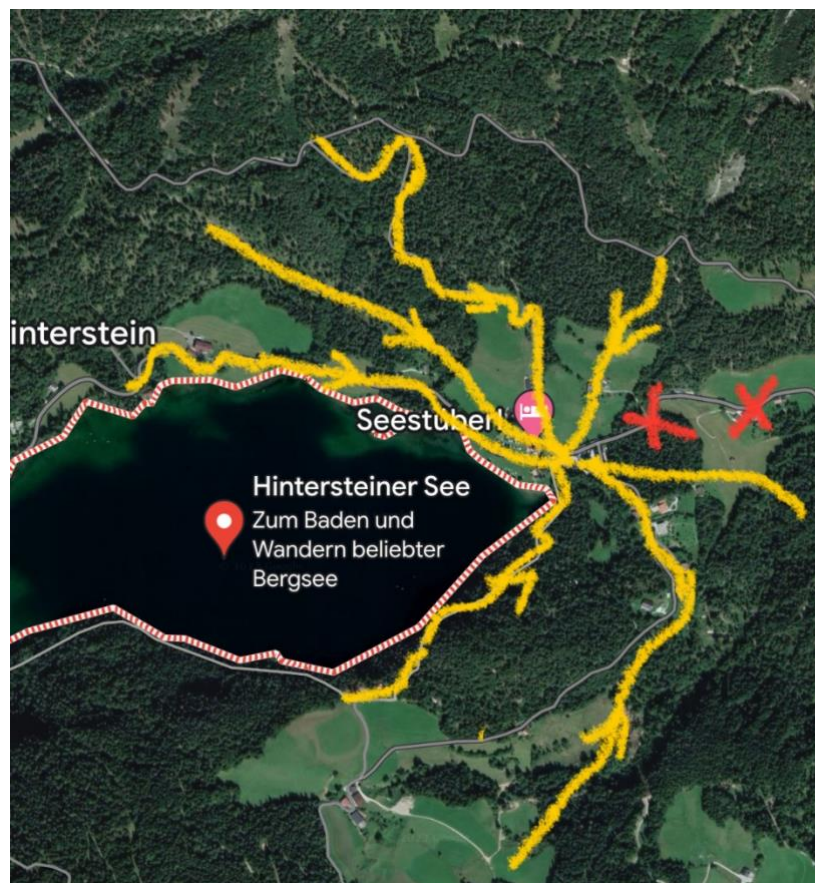
Establish a **feeding station**. A description can be found on page 4.

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SCENT TRAIL

With a scent trail, "organized" scent paths are drawn from various directions over several hundred meters to the location. The example image shows that the trail (yellow arrows) is always pulled from the turning point back to the location:



What can be used for the scent trail:

- A worn item of clothing belonging to the owner. Attach this to a rope/leash and drag it behind you.
- Fill a PET bottle with sausage or spreadable sausage water. Drill small holes in the bottle cap and, on the way back, turn the bottle upside down so that the mixture can drip out. The diluted sausage taste is especially suitable for dogs that have not yet built a relationship with the (new) owner... and, of course, for the greedy ones.

Where not to lay a scent trail: over heavily traveled roads, railway tracks, tunnels...

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HANGING UP FLYERS

Here is an example of a flyer. Important details include a good photo of your missing dog, telephone number, and instructions to report sightings with photos/videos. Include a note that the flyers should be reliably removed after your dog returns.



Print the flyers in larger quantities, e.g., 200 pieces in color, make them weatherproof with document sleeves and adhesive tape. Have friends and acquaintances (to avoid spreading your scent everywhere) place them in highly visible and frequented locations. It's best to place multiple flyers side by side to make them more noticeable. Flyers on lampposts, dog waste bag dispensers, bridge railings, shops, entrance doors in residential areas, parking lots, walking and biking paths, as well as distributing them in mailboxes, can quickly lead to sightings.

Do not provide details such as the color of the collar or distinctive fur markings. This helps you clarify whether the sighting is indeed your dog.

Also, post your flyer on the internet. The Facebook pages of animal shelters, Lost & Found Pets, city/township, companies, and tourism businesses have proven to be particularly helpful.

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HOW TO SET UP A FEEDING STATION

Choose a quiet, protected, darkened, and weatherproof retreat. If such a place is not available, even setting up a box/crate appropriately, making it waterproof with foil, and arranging it with a blanket can help. Your ideas and possibilities are limitless here.

Stock the feeding station with wet food/food. You can also serve it warm to intensify the scent. Of course, these treats also attract other (wild) animals.

Position the wildlife camera about 4 to 5 meters away from the feeding station. This way, you can also keep an eye on the immediate surroundings. Be sure to obtain the permission of the property owner/hunting leaseholder and ensure compliance with data protection regulations. You can rent a wildlife camera from us for a fee.

Regularly check and refill the feeding station at the same time, e.g., 08:00 and 20:00. Regularity is often the key to success.

For the information of passing pedestrians, it's best to hang a flyer about the feeding station.

A large stone smeared with liver sausage invites your dog to linger and reduces stress hormone due to licking. This is also a helpful tip if your dog has escaped from your own garden or has not yet established a solid relationship with the new four-legged family member.

WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE WHEN I CONTACT K9 TIERSUCHE TIROL

Contact us via the hotline 0720 900050 and leave your data and information about your missing dog on the voicemail. One of our advisors will contact you as soon as possible, discuss the course of events with you, and together, develop an initial concept for getting your missing dog back to you as quickly as possible. Your advisor will accompany you during this time and help react appropriately to the situations that arise.

We are a dedicated team, performing this activity voluntarily, drawing on decades of proven knowledge, constantly improving, and always striving to help pet owners!

**Hotline K9 Tiersuche Tirol
+43 720 900050**

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WHEN IS A SEARCH DOG DEPLOYED

If your missing dog is

- still a puppy or already a senior dog
- sick or injured
- dependent on medication
- wearing a leash/drag line/Flexi on its harness or collar

then the deployment of a search dog can be meaningful and helpful. The decision on whether search dog teams will assist with your missing dog is made by the K9 Tiersuche Tirol team in consultation with your personal advisor.

When is a search dog counterproductive?

When the missing dog is healthy, fit, mobile - i.e., without a leash. A search dog would drive this dog further and may compel it to "wander off."

THE SEARCH DOG IS COMING – HOW DO I PREPARE

For the deployment teams, scent articles must be prepared. For example, take the dog's blanket from its basket and cut strips from it. Distribute these in several boiled screw-top jars, screw the jars tightly, and pack all the jars together in a plastic bag, depositing them in a safe place in the house or apartment. These jars will be presented to the search dogs at the beginning of the operation. To prevent the search dogs from following the trail of a family member, all household members and animal companions must be present... including friends and acquaintances who have been in the vicinity of the scent article since the time of the dog's disappearance, in our example, the dog's blanket (even if only for a short time).

WHAT COSTS SHOULD I EXPECT WITH K9 TIERSUCHE TIROL

Consultation by our members is free of charge.

For a search dog deployment, we charge a one-time flat fee of €180.00. This fee is a one-time charge, regardless of the number of search dog teams deployed and whether additional operations follow.

Our deployment teams charge a mileage fee for travel to and from the location. Your advisor will gladly clarify these amounts in advance.

We rent out live traps in various sizes and wildlife cameras in different models for a rental fee and a deposit... your advisor will gladly provide you with the individual amounts.