VERMIST
VERLOREN HUISDIEREN

PRESS RELEASE

Ik ben vermist grows: from a lost-pet register to a tool for the whole neighbourhood

The free Belgian platform for lost and found pets now also serves vets, animal shelters and the police, with a waiting-room screen and a quarterly barometer

Diepenbeek, 13 October 2026. People who find a stray cat or dog often turn first to a vet, an animal shelter or the front desk of a police station. Ik ben vermist, the free Belgian platform for lost and found pets, is therefore now reaching out to them directly. Vets, shelters, police zones and municipalities each get their own page with ready-to-use material, including a screen for the waiting room or reception desk that shows the lost and found animals nearby. From January 2027, a quarterly barometer will publish figures per province and municipality. Ten municipalities already refer their residents to the platform (as of 13 October 2026).

A screen in the waiting room

A TV or tablet at the town hall reception, in the vet's waiting room or at the shelter shows the lost and found animals in the area one by one, each with a large QR code linking to the report. The link takes a minute to set up at ikbenvermist.be/en/for-municipalities/#scherm, for a municipality or a province, with a radius of 5 to 25 kilometres. The screen refreshes itself, with no cookies and no account.

A barometer every quarter

The barometer counts all reports from the past quarter (missing, found and sighted) by province, municipality and month, and how many animals made it home. Each edition is frozen on the day it is published, so journalists, municipalities and researchers can cite it. The first edition, covering the fourth quarter of 2026, will appear in early January 2027 at ikbenvermist.be/en/figures/barometer/.

New since the relaunch on 4 October

- **For owners:** door-to-door cards for every letterbox in the street ("Have you checked your garage, garden shed or storage room?"), reminders on day 7, 21 and 45 to close or renew a report in one click, a "Back home" card to share on social media, and a permanent short link (/m/number) on posters and QR codes that keeps working when a report changes. When owners edit their report, the Facebook post follows automatically. A name check warns people who accidentally enter their own name as the pet's name.
- **For finders:** a chip number lookup in the reports and then at DogID or CatID, a list of temporary shelter nearby (animal shelters, boarding kennels and vets), and a discreet route for anyone who finds a deceased animal: the chip number is compared with missing animals and the team informs the owner personally, without a public report.
- **For neighbours:** a "Moving house with your cat" guide with a printable flyer for the new neighbours and, during the fireworks season (20 December to 3 January), a banner with tips.
- **For municipalities and organisations:** a page per municipality with local figures, nearby vets and shelters, and a mention of the municipality that links to it; a poster with a QR code, a widget and the waiting-room screen; dedicated pages for police zones, vets and shelters.

Figures (as of 13 October 2026)

Since 2018, ikbenvermist.be has received 560 reports; 85 per cent concern a cat. There are 2.2 times as many reports in summer as in winter. Of the animals for which this is known, 96 per cent were microchipped. Since the relaunch on 4 October, 14 new reports have been posted and owners have marked 5 animals as back home.

> "You rarely find a lost pet on your own," says Christophe Vanleeuw of Ik ben vermist. "It's the neighbour who checks her garage, the vet who reads a chip or the officer at the front desk who hands over the right link. With these tools we want to make things easier for all of them, free of charge and without an account."

About Ik ben vermist

Ik ben vermist (ikbenvermist.be) is the free Belgian platform for missing, found and sighted pets. Owners and finders post a report without an account; the site instantly creates posters, alerts the neighbourhood and matches missing and found animals. Founded in 2018, the platform works in four languages and is an initiative of Huskii.

Press contact

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Press kit, logos and images: ikbenvermist.be/en/press/

Links

- Municipalities and waiting-room screen: ikbenvermist.be/en/for-municipalities/
- Organisations: ikbenvermist.be/en/for-organisations/ (police: /en/for-police/, vets: /en/for-vets/, shelters: /en/for-animal-shelters/)
- Barometer: ikbenvermist.be/en/figures/barometer/ · Figures: ikbenvermist.be/en/figures/
- Temporary shelter: ikbenvermist.be/en/temporary-shelter/ · Found a deceased animal: ikbenvermist.be/en/found-deceased-animal/
- Moving house with your cat: ikbenvermist.be/en/moving-house-with-your-cat/ · Chip lookup: ikbenvermist.be/en/found-pet/#chip