



## Lost Your Dog?

Losing your dog does not make you a bad owner, but not taking action to find him or her makes you an irresponsible one. Below are steps to refer to so that you can quickly be united. Remember that dogs cannot always find their way back home and sometimes can end up in cruel hands when left fending on their own. Take the time to look for them...I am sure they would look for you. *Please refer to our suggestions and remember to not give up hope.....*

### **1. Immediately notify your local animal control, shelter and /or Humane Society.**

File a lost report.

Ask for any sighting reports as often shelters do not have enough staff to track down reported animals unless they are confined.

Be prepared to check in daily until your pet is found. Shelters are busy and often an animals can be overlooked, not properly scanned, lost their collars or inaccurately described.

Submit or email a photo to them

Ask for numbers of all bordering municipality shelters, pounds, humane societies.

Leave a daytime and evening number of someone who would be available if you are not at home and do not have a cell phone with voice mail.

**Under the Animals For Research Act a dog only has to do a three business day pound stay ( not including the day found) so this means that time is of the essence as your dog could be adopted out or have alternate fates.** Most shelters will hold on to them longer however factors such as the condition your dog arrived in ( hit by car, injured etc) stress level , temperament, space all are factors determining how long they will let your dog sir there before taking action.

### **2. Call your vet and file a report**

Ask for numbers for local vets do a 10 mile radius as well as after hour and emergency hospitals.

### **3. Notify your microchip company.**

### **4. Search own property, house, as well as neighbouring properties or general area lost.**

Leave out in the open strong scented items to lure your dog back such as blankets, toys , clothing of yours. Do NOT leave food as that will only attract other animals

Search at night- a flashlight will catch reflection of animal eyes at night (careful will catch all critters!) - go low and check up against buildings etc most dogs will not just trot down the road at 1am.

If a lot of electrical activity , snowstorm or extreme heat , look in immediate as well broadening search as dog may have fled or moved far to find safe coverage.

### **5. Make posters.**

Hang them around the area the dog was lost in and 10 mile radius, on light posts etc as well as vet hospitals, pet supply stores, shelter boards, grocery store boards etc

## 6, Tell neighbors, friends.

Organize a group to help you look. If you live by rail tracks or gated communities - call the railway and company then ask their security, staff to keep their eye out, call local dog walkers ask them to keep watch, call rescue groups especially breed specific and give a lost report

Ask friends to check into shelters also for you.

## 7. Place ad in newspaper:

Lost and found section and on websites that host notice boards send out your own email poster ask your friends to forward on to 10 of their friends - gets the word out fast

## 8 Check Internet ads and newspaper ads - someone may be attempting to sell your dog

9 Check with your local animal control shelter, or humane society for who in your area is responsible for deceased body removal on municipal street and highways in a 10 mile radius - check in with them periodically,

## 10. Call local cable company, newspaper, news station to do a story

**When you are reunited with your dog please take the time to let everyone know**, many kind folks will still be looking or keeping their eyes out so be sure to cancel lost reports, take down posters, tell friends.

**Remember that it is up to you to look for your dog**, though agencies exist and are there to help they are over run, with limited staff and resources so call them .GO IN AND LOOK!.

Careful when offering a reward it is best always to not disclose an actual amount and if someone calls claiming to have your dog you should meet in an open, public space and bring a friend, if someone is demanding a set price notify your local police department.

There have been stories of dogs missing for months, even years who have been reunited, so do not give up hope.

Losing a dog only highlights the importance of Micro chipping, Proper Dog ID, tags, licensing your dog and keeping this info current.

### **Some steps to avoid the heartache and panic of a lost dog:**

Make sure that if you do leave your dog unattended in your backyard that you have a high enough secure fence line with working latch and lock on gates.

Check that screen doors close behind you and catch in the lock. Remind youngsters to watch, front and back doors as well as shutting garage doors and gates.

Leave your dog in your home while you are away this way they are safe and so is your home.

Do not leave your dog unattended in parked car with the window open.

A dog should never be left unattended tied outside a store, or school

Young children should never be left responsible for a dog and in an emergency or high stimuli situation often cannot control the dog

Electric fencing works in theory but many dogs that cross the boundary will not cross back in to their yards knowing they will get a shock pulse again so end up at shelters wearing their receiver on their necks.

Update all info for micro chipping, licensing and id tags whenever a change occurs.

Neuter and spay as it help to curb the drive to wander

**Article by Joan z**