

Fireworks & Reuniting Lost Dogs with Their Families



Our Statistics

Since our inception, the Lost Dogs of America network has helped reunited over 100,000 dogs.



Prevention Tips

Please feel free to share our tips

Statistics show a
**30% increase in
pet escapes related to
FIREWORKS!**



Please take precautions so your pet will not become part of this statistic:

- ◆ Keep your pets indoor and keep them in a secure interior room with a radio or tv playing.
- ◆ Close your windows so your pet will not push the screen out. Same with screen doors; shut the interior door.
- ◆ If you have to walk or take your dog out, make sure he/she has:
 - a license
 - a readable ID tag on
 - a properly fitted collar
 - is on a leash

Including within a fenced yard. Dogs have been known to scale or dig under fences and squeeze through small spaces to escape.

Las estadísticas muestran un
aumento del 30%
en los perros que se
escapan relacionado con
FUEGOS ARTIFICIALES



Por favor tome las precauciones para que su perro no se convertirá en parte de esta estadística:

- ◆ Mantenga sus perros dentro de su casa, dentro una habitación interior con el radio o television puesto.
- ◆ Cierre las ventanas para que sus perros no empuje la puerta de tela metálica hacia fuera; lo mismo con la puerta interior.
- ◆ Si usted tiene que caminar a su perro, asegúrese de que él / ella tiene:
 - una licencia
 - una placa de identificación que sea legible
 - un collar ajustado apropiadamente

Incluso mantenga su perro dentro de un patio cercado. Los perros se han sabido escapar debajo de las cercas y pasar a través de pequeños lugares para escaparse.



FIREWORKS – Celebrating with fireworks is great fun for people but can frighten pets. More pets run away from home over the Fourth of July holiday than any other. The safest place for your pet is indoors. Always keep a leash and collar with identification tags on your pet if you do take them to any festivities.



Fuegos artificiales - Celebración con fuegos artificiales es una gran diversión para la gente, pero puede asustar a su perros. Más perros huyen de sus hogares durante el Cuatro de Julio, que cualquier otro día. El lugar más seguros para su perros es en la casa. Mantener siempre una correa y un collar con etiquetas de identificación, si llevan a su perros a la festividades.



FIREWORKS ALERT

keep pets safe. keep pets inside.



HELPINGLOSTPETS.COM



Trumpets, drums, sirens gunshots....

Taking your pet to a holiday parade this weekend? Keep your pet on a secure lead with a well fitting collar and ID tags. Even the most well behaved pet can be startled and bolt if surprised by a **LOUD** noise.





The greatest risk to shy lost dogs is that they will be chased into traffic and injured or killed.





The greatest risk to lost friendly dogs is that they will be adopted out or euthanized at a shelter before the owner can locate them.



The Majority of Missing Dogs Will Fall Into One of These Two Categories...

1. *Opportunistic*



- Gate left open
- Electronic fence not working
- Hole in fence
- Distracted owner
- Dog chasing prey such as squirrels, rabbits, deer

Key factor is the dog was in a happy frame of mind when he/she went missing.



The Majority of Missing Dogs Will Fall Into One of These Two Categories...

2. Dogs Lost from Stressful Situations



Loud Noises – fireworks, thunder, gun shots, cars backfiring, etc.

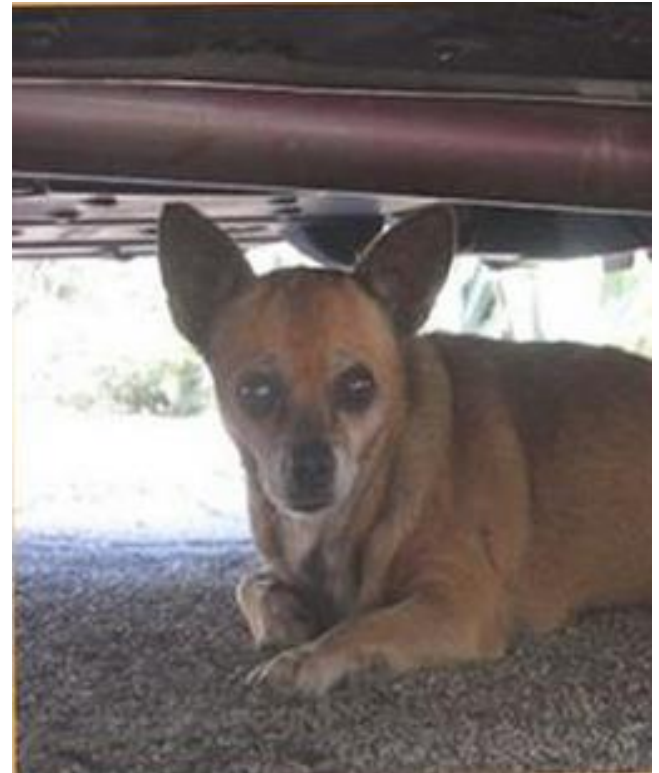
Lost From Somewhere Other Than Home – vacation, camping, kennel, vet clinic, pet sitter, groomers, transport, animal shelter

Newly adopted dog, including but not limited to puppy mill dogs and recently adopted research dogs



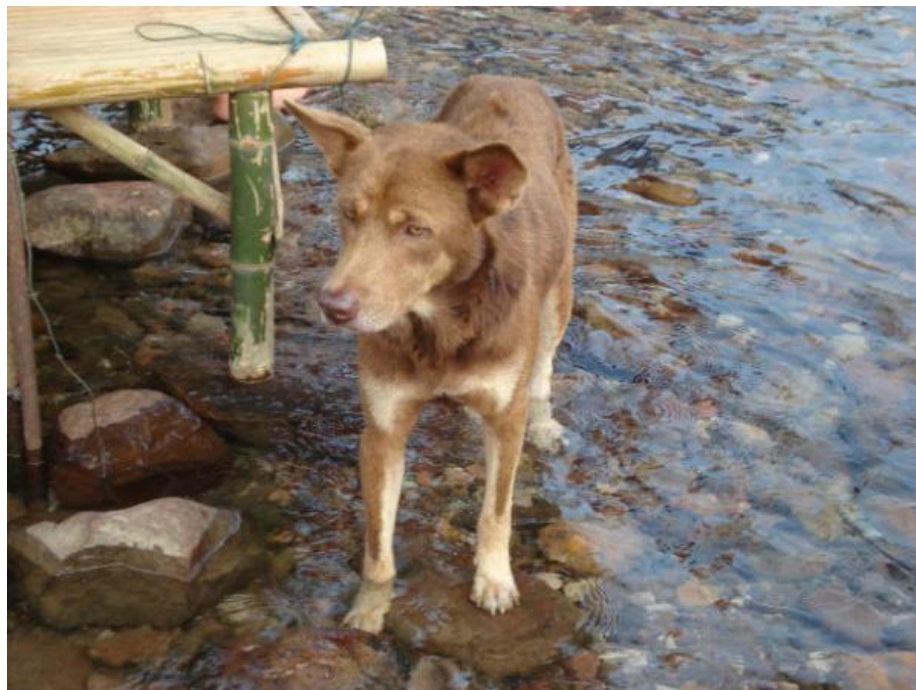
Dogs Lost From Stressful Situations

- May initially bolt but usually do not go very far (unless they are being chased or pressured).
- They will hide and may remain in hiding for several hours or days.
- Will go into “survival mode” very quickly.
- May attempt to return to the location they went missing from as soon as it is quiet.



Survival Mode

- Dogs in survival mode have returned to basic animal instincts and are only concerned with their daily needs.
- They may not respond to or recognize their owners.



The FIRST thing to do!

- Immediately leave food, water, familiar scented articles, and the dog's bed or favorite toys at the spot where the dog was last seen. Make it EASY for the dog to come home



One man's dirty Laundry...



Can be a dog's way home
Dogs know their owner's scent
Put out worn clothing, socks, t-shirts etc.
Leaving items out that have your scent can help attract your dog



Leave worn clothing, towels & dog bed w/food/water where he/she escaped.



Five Things To Do:

Five Things To Do If You Have Lost Your Dog



1. Immediately put out food, water and your dog's bed or an article of your clothing at the location where your dog was last seen. There is a good chance that your dog may return.
2. Get the word out by using flyers and signs (like yard sales signs) with a picture of your dog and your phone number, and then check your phone often! Go door-to-door with your flyers in the neighborhood where your dog was last seen.
3. Contact your local animal shelters and animal control facilities, vet clinics and police departments to report your dog missing. Fax or e-mail them a photo of your dog and your contact information. Contact the microchip company and report your dog as lost.
4. Instruct everyone that is helping you to NOT call or chase your dog. This will prolong your search. If they see your dog, tell them to sit or lay down (no eye contact) and gently toss out tasty treat to lure your dog in.
5. Post your dog on HelpingLostPets.com, your local lost and found section of craigslist, Nextdoor, in your local paper and on other lost and found Internet/Facebook sites.



Provided by Lost Dogs of America

For more resources on finding
your lost dog visit us at:

lostdogsofamerica.org



Organize!

- Have a good plan
- Assign one “point person”. It should be the person who is the most bonded with the dog
- Keep giving control back to that person
- Cheerfully educate at every opportunity. Ask to be included in their group emails or watch the Facebook threads
- Keep steering the ship back on course
- Ask for help if you need it. Most of the subjects discussed are included in more detail on our website



Pace your volunteers

- Make sure they understand that this could take weeks or even months. They should pace themselves.
- Volunteers will be needed to flyer after every sighting, to make and move signs, to update Craigslist and newspaper ads and to notify vet clinics, shelters, etc.
- Volunteers are not needed to “search”. Any walking of the area should be done by the owner, close family members and one helper
- Praise those making good suggestions and validate what they have said.
- This will be a team effort. Make sure every member of the team is paddling in the same direction.



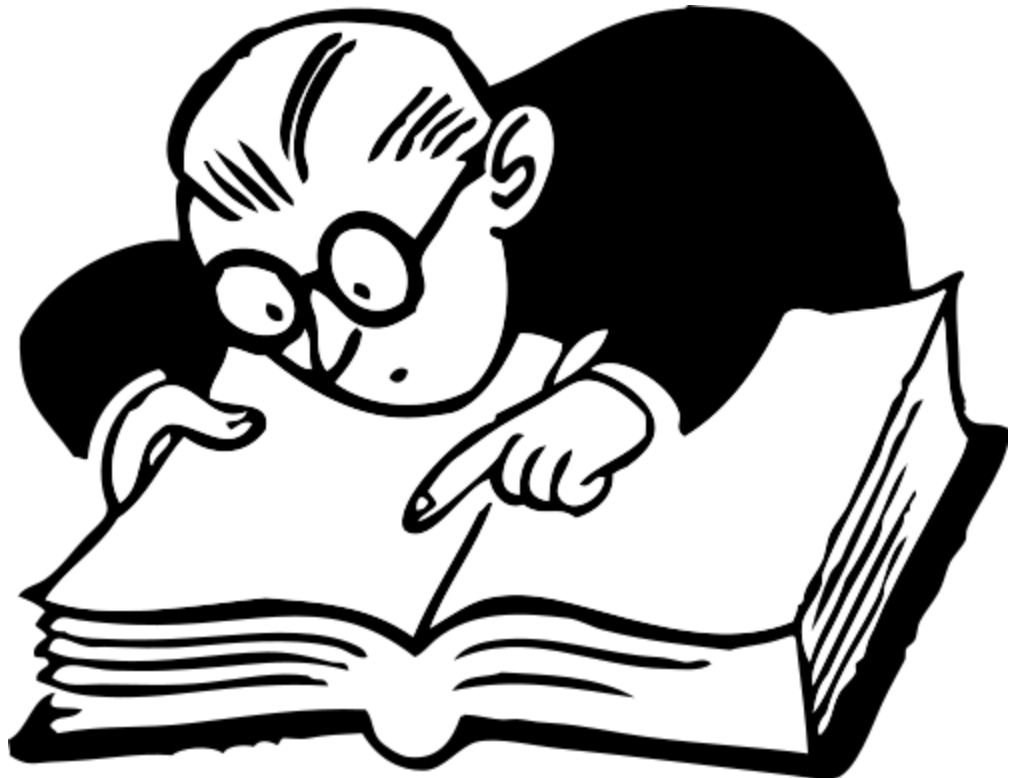
Generating Sightings is The Key to A Successful Recovery

Thank you everyone for helping find Murphy



Choose Words Carefully

- Avoid implying that the dog was stolen or picked up unless absolutely 100% certain
- Can deter legitimate sightings of a dog that is simply lost



Flyers

*The flyer is only
as good as
the
hands it gets into*



Distributing Flyers

- Good & Fastest – Stuff in newspaper box
- Better – Tape to the entry door of the house
- Best – Knock on the door, talk to the resident and put the flyer in their hands.



If you have narrowed down a location or get a fresh sighting—spend the extra time to knock on doors.



It is Illegal!



To put a flyer in a US mail box or affix it to the mail box.
Do not do it or advise anybody to do it.



It is Not Illegal



To Put a Flyer in the Newspaper Box



REMEMBER!



You are not only trying to find someone who HAS seen the dog.

You are also alerting people who MAY see the dog.



Where to Flyer?



- Door to Door - One mile radius of where the dog went missing (expand as necessary)
- Vet clinics, shelters, groomers, dog parks
- Churches, schools, public buildings
- Laundromats, retail stores, businesses

Think Outside the Box!



Flyer Command Post

Set up a table in front of a high volume store (get permission)

Tip: Set up a flyer command post

A great idea sent to us by one of our owners who did an awesome job of getting the word out about their lost dog.

(Dog and family are happily reunited.)



Don't Forget to Give a Flyer to Delivery People and Bus Drivers!





- You may talk to 99 people who have not seen anything!
- You are looking for that ONE person who has seen SOMETHING!
- Or who MAY see SOMETHING!



Intersection Signs

If you have lost your dog, place a yard sign in front of your house, with a photo of your missing pet and your phone number. People who find a dog often will walk or drive around the area, trying to find the pet's owner.



Location is based on sightings and map.

Ask permission when posting on private property!





Tagging your car...

is not only for High School Homecomings



**You can help with the Homecoming of your dog
by spreading the word on the road!**

Check with local Police Department for guidelines and laws for tagging your car



Dogs in Survival Mode

(Dog returns to basic instinct)

Only concerned with three things



1. Finding Food (and Water)



2. Finding Hiding Places

Is there easy access between the food sources and the hiding places that the lost dog can use without being seen?



3. Avoiding Predators (even their owners!)



Rule No. 1!

Don't look for the dog.

**Look for where the dog has been
or might be.**

**Are the dog's needs being met? Does
the location offer all 3 things?**



Lost Dogs in Survival Mode That Aren't Being Chased

Usually make good decisions and may survive indefinitely



Lost Dogs in Survival Mode that are being chased, called or approached

- Will make poor decisions
- Will be constantly in a state of panic
- Will often be killed by a car, train, or fall through thin ice in the spring



So Where is the Lost Dog Getting Food?

Tip: Gardens and bird feeders and breadcrumbs..oh my!!



Lost dogs are not gourmets. The house pet that turns up his nose at a full food dish at home, may find sunflower seeds and bread crumbs a delicacy when out on his own. Make sure you check out all the backyard gardens in the area where your pet went missing.

Ripe fruits and veggies are hard to resist.



Use Your Nose!



Remember! If you can smell it, a dog definitely can. A dog's sense of smell is reportedly 1000 times stronger than a human's sense of smell.



Where are the good smells in the neighborhood coming from?

- Kentucky Fried Chicken? McDonalds? Etc.
- Grocery stores or Walmart that sell rotisserie chicken?
- Convenience stores that are cooking hotdogs?
- Chinese or Mexican restaurants?

Remember – it doesn't mean the dog is actually getting food there. But he is lured there by the smell.





Garbage Day... YUM!

Lost dogs are not particular about their menu
The night before and morning of trash pick up
is a good time to be out searching for a dog
that may be scavenging for food



Food Sources

- Outdoor cat food
- Bird feeders
- Restaurant dumpsters and cooking oil dumpsters
- Food processing plants or pet food processing plants
- Feed mills
- Corn fields
- Vegetable gardens & fruit trees
- Nuts, berries, grass, horse poop
- Barbecue grills
- Mice and rabbits, eggs in waterfowl nests, chickens
- Road kill, hunting remains, fish guts and heads



Shelter and Hiding Places

Are there good spots to hide close to a food source?

- Houses that back onto wooded areas or parks
- Tall grass or marshy areas
- Cemeteries
- Golf courses
- Industrial parks
- Quiet cul de sacs
- Decks, old cars, old machinery, boats – especially with overgrown grass
- Untidy yards and farm yards
- Abandoned barns and sheds



Paths of Travel

- Railroad Tracks
- Jogging, cycling, hiking trails
- Fence lines
- Cutlines
- Ditches of quiet roads



Lost dogs in survival mode will be trying to conserve energy. They will use the path of least resistance to get between their food sources and hiding spots.



Lost Dogs Like to Lurk on the Edge of Civilization



Once a dog's three needs are being met he will let down his guard and you can begin to implement a plan to catch him



Sighting Journal

- Highly recommended
- Most owners get overly excited and in an attempt to rush to sighting location they forget to ask important questions
- Most important – Get the phone number of the person who saw the dog!



Question to Ask about Sightings

To record sightings, use a spiral notebook or create a database on the computer. Keep a record of all calls in one place & keep your log with you at all times. There will be times when you will be calling back for more information or to confirm the sighting.

Think of this as an interview – Ask questions and listen -- you are trying to find out information about your missing dog.

First of all, be sure to record the name of the caller & their phone number.

Ask simple questions like *where did you see my dog?* Ask them to be specific. For example: the dog was going north on Ash Street towards the Bay City Mall. On the other side of the street was Walmart.

When did you see my dog? Again, ask them to be specific. The dog was seen at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 5th. It was raining at the time.

Can you describe my dog?

What was she doing? Was she trotting, running, darting in & out, sleeping, playing with other dogs, walking, etc?

Sometimes to get the person to talk, you can ask questions like – was she wearing a collar – what color is the collar? Did she seem ok?

How was she carrying her body and tail? Was she low to the ground – almost like crawling, tail up or down, wagging?

After each sighting – post it on the map whether it is a printed map or a google map. These sightings will help determine where to continue to pass out fliers, post intersection signs & possibly to set a trap or use other means (like luring your dog, leaving a yard gate open, etc.) to secure your dog.



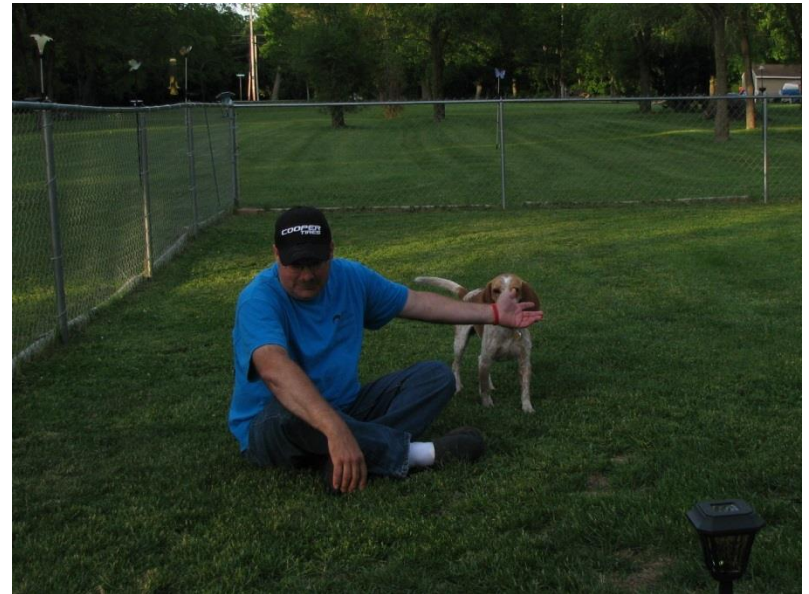
Arriving at Sighting Location

- Don't slam the car door!
- Stay calm – dog will feel nervous energy and may take off again
- Have smelly food & treats, leash and collar ready
- Try to recreate in your mind the scenario of the sighting
- If the dog is not in the area go door to door and re-flyer and speak to everyone



IF you see the dog (possible but not probable)

- Sit or lie down by yourself and scatter tasty treats around you and WAIT.
- May take minutes or hours for the dog to creep towards you.
- Sleep, read, send emails – but put your phone on silent and don't talk on it.



If you DO NOT see the dog

- DON'T waste time driving around
- Immediately go door to door and flyer – speaking with everyone.
- If no one is home – leave a flyer that you have written on: “SEEN! 4 p.m. May 31 at edge of your property” or “corner of this block” or “across from the Walgreens”



Don't be too quick to Discount Sighting

- Most sightings are legitimate
- Dismissing a sighting can be a big mistake
- Don't dismiss one unless you are absolutely certain it was the wrong dog
- Mark the sighting on the map



Before leaving the area

- Leave FOOD! Anything – cheeseburger, canned cat food, hotdog from the convenience store – ANYTHING except kibble.
- Ask somebody to replenish food twice a day if you can't do it
- Quantity – enough to keep the dog from leaving the area but don't overfeed!



When the lost dog's needs are being met:

- He will start to let down his guard.
- He will start to trust people and return to a domesticated state of mind.
- Your chances of successfully catching him are greatly improved.



Tip: Magnet dog.....



Using a friendly dog to help lure a shy lost dog is a great technique. But, there is a right way and a wrong way to do it. With the friendly "magnet" dog on a 25 - 50 foot long line, sit or quietly walk the area of the last sighting. Let the magnet dog out to the end of the line. If the lost dog approaches - be patient, give them time to greet one another, and then slowly "reel" the magnet dog towards you. The lost dog may follow! Have a collar and leash ready should the lost dog get close. You may have to try this several times on different days.



Tip: Feeding station

A lost dog will be looking for food. Set up a feeding /watering station near where the dog was sighted. Put out small amounts of smelly, tasty wet pet food or meat, but don't overfeed. Be consistent. Providing a reliable source of food can keep the dog in the area.



Humane Trapping What Can Go Right?



A success story – a happy dog and owner



What Can Go Wrong?

- The lost dog can get injured or killed
- Neighborhood pets or children can get injured or killed
- Wildlife can get injured or killed
- Traps can get stolen or dogs can be stolen from the trap
- Volunteers, helpers or owners can get bit resulting in costly medical bills and possibly the death of the dog
- Transporting traps can damage your vehicle



What Can Go Wrong?

Lost Dog Can Get Hurt

- Poorly designed or flimsy traps can cause a dog to panic, try to get out and hurt himself.
- Dogs left in a trap too long can get cold, hot, hungry or thirsty.



Neighborhood Pets or Wildlife Can Get Hurt or Killed



Neighborhood Children Can Get Hurt



Volunteers, Owners or Helpers Can Get Bit



- This can result in costly medical bills and possibly the death of the dog.



Traps are Expensive!



Lock traps to a solid object with a padlock and chain to prevent them from being stolen.



How We Minimize Risk

- Best Case Scenario

- Let the owner assume ALL the responsibility for the trap – picking it up, signing the waiver, paying the rental, operating and checking the trap.
- ALWAYS use this option if it is available and ALWAYS advise the owners of all the risks involved with trapping



**The Owner MUST have
landowner's permission to set a
trap**



Places where you are unlikely to get permission



Playgrounds
Public Parks
Churches



Schools
Government Buildings
Large Corporations



Use the Largest Size Trap Available



Ask the owner if their dog is comfortable going in a crate.



Traps Must Be on Level Ground, Sturdy and Well Designed



Avoid using traps that are flimsy or have the trip plate in the middle of the trap.



Traps Should Become Part of the Landscape



Traps Should Be Bungeed Open and used as a Feeding Station Only When:

- Weather is too hot
- Weather is too cold
- Not sure if it is the lost dog
- Owner can't consistently check trap every few hours
- Dog is very fearful



To Cover or Not to Cover?



Depends on the individual situation such weather or disposition of the dog if you should leave it covered or uncovered.



Always Cover the Floor!

- Lost dogs often have sore, raw feet
- Won't step on wire floor
- Trip plate needs to be covered
- Use door mats, old English saddle pads, old carpeting, pine needles and leaves
- Make sure it doesn't interfere with trip plate or function of the trap door
- Be prepared to replace it after cats, possums, raccoons or skunks are caught



Baiting the Trap

- Use smelly food (not dry dog kibble)
- Many different techniques:
attach a meat bone or smelly KFC in an onion bag to the back of the trap. Lead a trail of grease, barbeque sauce, spaghetti sauce or spray Pam cooking spray in and on the



ALWAYS WEAR GLOVES!



Checking Traps

Handling Lost Dogs

Releasing Wildlife



Checking the Trap

- Always carry:
- Gloves
- Cell phone
- Bungee cords
- Fresh bait
- Fresh scent items





Don't Have a Humane Live Trap? *Be Creative!*



Use a shed, fenced yard, tennis court,
exercise pen, etc...



Small dog, trap shy & weary, trapped inside tennis court after 4 months



Must Have a Plan for When You Catch the Dog

- Where are you going to take it? (a safe, enclosed place)
- Do you have enough people to lift the trap and the trap into a vehicle? Do you have enough gloves for the helpers?
- Do you have a big enough car or truck to transport the trap and dog safely?

It is important that they think this through BEFORE you catch the dog.



Move the Entire Trap to a Safe, Indoor Location before the owner removes the dog.



Common Mistakes: Search Parties

- Drives dogs into hiding or out of the flyering area.
- People noisily congregating discourages dog from returning on his own.
- Family, friends and volunteers should be used to distribute flyers.



Tip: Driving in circles.....

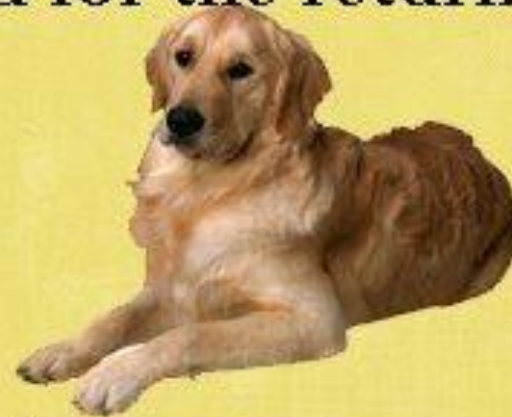
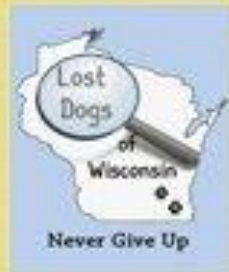
Don't waste valuable time driving around for hours looking for a lost dog. If an initial search of the area turns up nothing- switch gears. Instead of driving in circles, work on getting intersection signs and flyers out in the area where the dog was lost. Go door to door, talk to residents and people who work in the area. You want everyone to be aware you are searching for your pet.



http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/images/view_photo.php?photo_id=4730



Offering a reward for the return of your lost pet?



A reward can generate interest in your search, but it can also cause some problems. Your pet may be frightened by people chasing it in the hopes of collecting the money. Unscrupulous “finders” may try to take advantage. Don't let emotions over rule common sense. Never pay a reward before you have your dog back, and never go alone to meet the finder.



Chasing or Pursuing the Dog on Foot, Horseback, ATV's, Vehicles

Tip: Catch me if you can...



: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Domestic dogs vary in size and shape so it is difficult to pin point just how fast they can run. However, in general most can travel at top speeds of 18 to 31 miles per hour with 19 mph or so being average. Humans in reasonable shape can probably do about 6 miles per hour. Just another reason why it is not a good idea to try and catch a lost dog by chasing it.



Dismissing sightings as being the “wrong dog”

Which dog are you looking for? All three of these photos are of the same pet.



Remember- when you are looking for a lost dog-it may not look exactly like his posted photo. Hair length and condition change. That is why its important to note any distinguishing marks or color patterns. (ex. black tips on both ears, one white paw, large brown spot under chin etc.)



Sshh! It's a Secret!



Never give out the exact location of a sighting or a trap to the public. Well meaning people may chase or call the lost dog. You need the dog to stay in one location to lure him into the trap.



Questions or Comments?



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LostDogsofAmerica@gmail.org



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