

Fireworks & Reuniting Lost Dogs with Their Families



Your Presenters



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Reuniting lost and found dogs
with their owners
through social media
since 2010!

We are
pleased
to
announce
our
YTD
Reunions!

Thanks to all of our fans who support our
missions and share our FB posts!



936 Dogs Reunited:
910 Safely
26 Deceased



2153 Dogs Reunited:
2075 Safely
78 Deceased



1653 Dogs Reunited:
1605 Safely
48 Deceased



1555 Dogs Reunited:
1518 Safely
37 Deceased



760 Dogs Reunited:
715 Safely
45 Deceased



100 Dogs Reunited:
92 Safely
8 Deceased



46 Dogs Reunited:
44 Safely
2 Deceased

May 2014

7203 Dogs Reunited:
6959 Safely
244 Deceased

Since our
inception,
the Lost Dogs of
America network
has helped
reunited over
25,000 dogs.

Missing Dogs:

1. *Opportunistic*



- Gate left open
- Electronic fence not working
- Hole in fence
- Distracted owner
- Dog chasing prey

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

Missing Dogs:

2. Dogs Lost from Stressful Situations



Loud Noises

Lost from somewhere other than home

Newly adopted dog

Dogs Lost From Stressful Situations

- May initially bolt
- Hide for several hours or days
- “Survival Mode”
- Return to the location they went missing from as soon as it is quiet



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

Organize!

- Have a good plan.
- Assign one “point person” - the person who is the most bonded with the dog.
- Keep giving control back to that person.
- Cheerfully educate at every opportunity (group emails, or Facebook)
- Keep steering the ship back on course.
- Ask for help if you need it.

Pace Your Volunteers

- Make sure they understand that this could take weeks or even months.
- Flyer after every sighting, make and move signs, update Craigslist and newspaper ads, 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

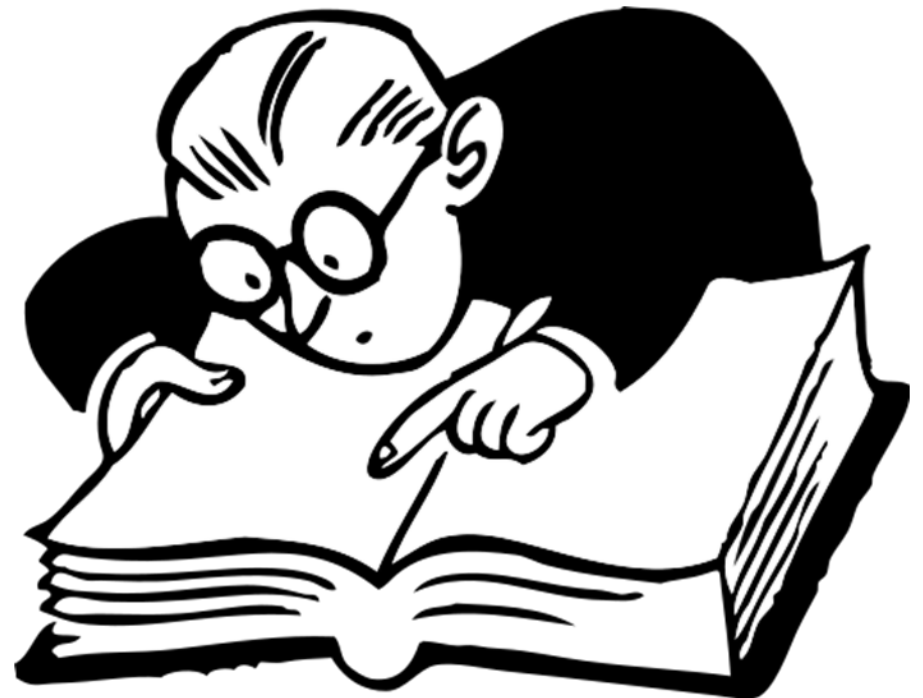
Thank you everyone for helping find Murphy



Choose Words Carefully

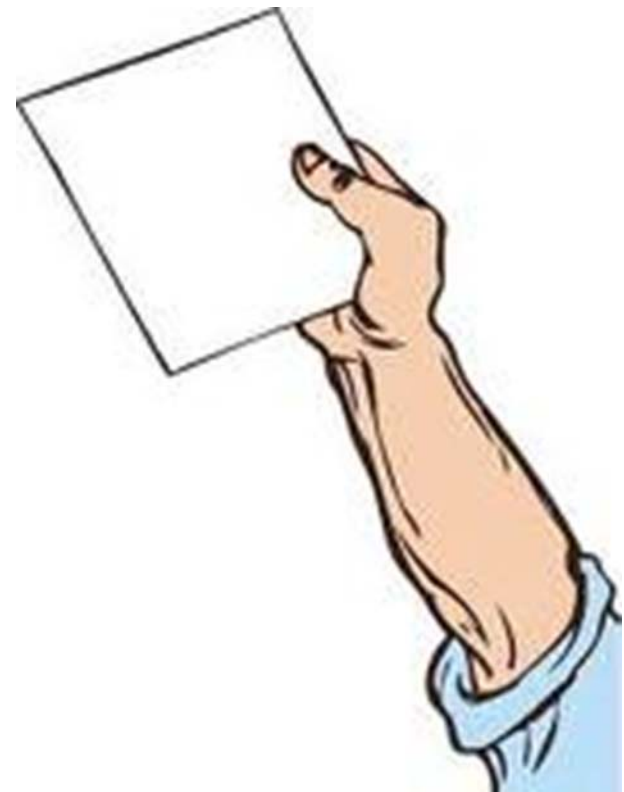
Avoid implying that the dog was stolen or picked up unless absolutely 100% certain

- Can deter legitimate sightings of a dog that is simply lost



Flyering

*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

Flyer Command Post

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.)



Give a Flyer to Delivery People and Bus Drivers





**KEEP
CALM
AND
DON'T GET
DISCOURAGED**

- 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

Rural vs. Urban

Both have their challenges!



Where Could the Dog Be?



Dogs in Survival Mode 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



Use Your Nose!



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?

- Fast food restaurants?
- Grocery stores 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
- 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
- Fencelines
- 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!



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 reflyer – speaking 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 – speak 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 Pick n Save”

Don't Be Too Quick to Discount Sightings

- 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 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.

Humane Trapping What Can Go Right?



A success story – a happy dog and owner.

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



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?



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
- 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)
- Meat bone attached to back of the trap
- Lead a trail of grease, spaghetti sauce or spray cooking spray into the trap



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...**



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 flyer instead of search.



More Common Mistakes

Don't:

- Offer a reward on the flyers
- Chase or pursue the dog on foot, horseback, ATV, car
- Give out the location of a sighting or trap

Do:

- Start a private Facebook page so searchers can keep in touch

“Flushing” the Dog



Learn More!

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www.lostdogsillinois.org

www.lostdogsofwisconsin.org

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