

# When Your Dog Is Lost

*This guide is to assist you if your dog becomes lost*

## Who to Contact

*Now that you've contacted the Dog Warden you should also contact:*

- The Local or State Police (they often get the first call when a dog is sighted)
- Local Animal Control (if you have any in your area) (Animal Control only has to hold the dog for 48 hours)
- Local Animal Shelters (if you have any in your area) (After 48 hours, the shelter can put your dog up for adoption)
- Local Veterinarians (if the dog was injured, it may have been taken to a local vet)
- Internet Sites (such as Craig's List and Pet Finders. There may be other sites for your local area)
- Other Dog owners (they are often aware of strays in the area.)

## What to Leave in Your Yard, Porch or Deck

*Often dogs will use their noses to guide them back home*

- Anything that may have your dog's scent such as dog bed, blanket, rug, toys, etc...
- Anything that may have your scent such as clothing, blankets, etc...
- Also leave food or treats with a strong, enticing smell.

## Flyers

*When people contact you, they may not be able to catch your dog, but you can start to track your dog.*

- The top of the flyer in big bold lettering should say **LOST DOG**
- Under **LOST DOG**, place a **large photo of the dog**. If you don't have a photo of the actual dog then try find a photo that looks like your dog so the public has a general idea of what they should be looking for.
- Under the photo in big bold lettering should be a **cell phone number**. If you are out looking for your dog and it is seen by someone, this enables you to get an immediate call, and you can get to the location quicker. If you do not have a cell phone number, then your home number will do.
- If your dog is timid or afraid of people, you may want to add "**DO NOT CHASE**"

## Where and how to place the flyers

**Dogs are often frightened by people, but not cars. So people in cars can be your best resource.**

- Flyers should be placed in plastic sleeves, with opened end at the bottom, to protect from the rain.
- Place flyers at eye level to people in cars and visible for dog walkers.  
*(Be aware, there may be ordinances against posting signs. You may need to get permission from your local municipality)*
- Once your dog is found, please remove all of your signs. *However, you may be surprised how many people have tried to look for your dog, so as a courtesy you may want to leave a few signs up for an extra week and write "FOUND" across them.*
- Once your signs are taken down, you may want to keep them, for future use, should your dog get lost again.

## If Your Dog is Seen...

- Often times, dogs may feel they are in trouble because they are loose and may be afraid to come to you.
  - Do not chase the dog unless you truly feel you can catch it.
  - If the dog does not run away, stand still, crouch to the ground or even sit on the ground.
  - Do not yell at the dog or get overly excited if you see it. Stay calm and gently call your dog.
  - Have treats, such as hotdogs, and toss them to the dog. If your dog loves to play, attempt to engage your dog in play.
  - If the dog runs, do not chase, usually they will run a few hundred feet but they will still keep you in their sight.
  - Sometimes if you walk away, the dog may follow.
  - If your dog is staying in a particular area, leave something there that has yours and your dog's scent along with enticing food.
  - It may take several tries to get your dog to come to you.
- \*All dogs 3 months of age must have a current Pennsylvania Dog License. A Dog License will get your dog home faster once found.**