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From: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com on behalf of lissa.scott [lissa.scott@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 30, 2006 10:52 AM
To: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [ExtMAGDRL] DOE Topic #33: Finding a Lost Dog

Hi All,

We were all recently saddened by the loss of a Dane who escaped from his adopter during a transport. In catching up on reading, I came across an article "Six Time-honored Tactics to Find a Lost Dog" in the August 2006 edition of "Your Dog" newsletter from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. I'm sharing this information as Dog Owner Education Topic #33.

During our MAGDRL housechecks we ask if applicants know what to do if their adopted Dane gets lost. Most applicants answer, "Check the local shelter." Sadly, most people who find a lost dog ****do not**** turn it in to a shelter for fear of euthanasia. For those lucky ones that are turned in, only +/- 14% are ever reunited with their owners. Knowing what to do if your dog is lost is important for all dog owners, and is good education for potential MAGDRL adopters.

Prevention is the best approach. Practice recall so that your dog will *always* come when called. Always have your dog on-leash whenever it's not securely confined. And most importantly, whether at home or away, **ALWAYS** have some form of ID on your dog. A collar with ID tags or a collar with your name and contact number on it are best. My adults are tattooed with my information, so they don't wear collars inside our home. Puppy Savannah is microchipped which is not visible, so until she is tattooed and whether inside or outside, she always wears a leather collar with ID tags. Please don't be lulled into thinking they're safe at home -- most lost dogs wander away from their own homes, especially those left unsupervised in their yard.

According to Your Dog's safety editor Elissa Wolfson, the six steps to successfully finding a lost dog are:

- 1) Contact Animal Control, local veterinarians & vet emergency hospitals, and local rescues in case someone turns your dog in to them. Also check your local service workers to make sure the trash pickup crew knows how to contact you if they see your dog.
- 2) Place notices in newspapers and online at "Missing Pet Network" (www.missingpet.net), PetFinder (www.petfinder.com); FidoFinder.com: (<http://www.fidofinder.com/>); Lost Dog Search (<http://www.lostdogsearch.com/>); and Missing Pet Partnership (<http://www.lostapet.org/>). These sites also have good suggestions for finding a lost dog.
- 3) Use large, fluorescent orange poster board to make the signs with REWARD in large letters on the top, and LOST DOG in large letters on the bottom. You want people driving by to see your signs to help expand the search.
- 4) Concentrate on posting signs with your dog's photo on utility poles all over the area where the dog was last seen, but also post them in surrounding areas where people may congregate. A lost dog can travel very far, very fast.
- 5) Always keep treats on you to attract the dog during if it's spotted. Expand the search by asking friends and family to check shelters, drive around, talk to people, put out fliers in surrounding areas. The broader the search, the more likely it will have a happy ending.
- 6) If at all possible, ASAP call in a professional rescuer. The longer you wait, the more witnesses you lose and the farther away the dog will likely be. Pet Hunters International (<http://www.pethunters.com/>) is a good place to start and was showcased on Animal Planet.

My hope is that you'll never need to use this information. As always, thanks for educating yourselves to benefit dogs and their owners!

Lissa Scott
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MAGDRL web: <http://www.magdrl.org>
MAGDRL events: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/MAGDRL.htm>
Bloat info: http://www.lissa.net/Joya/Merlot_bloat.htm
Gastropexy info: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/Lapro-Pexy.htm>

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings



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