

Prevention is the best medicine for keeping your dog safe.

First of all, do your best to provide a secured area from which he cannot stray. When in public, keep your dog on a leash. Make sure your dog is wearing an identification tag and that he's updated on his vaccinations. Have your dog micro-chipped and enroll him in a database. If you move or change your phone number, be sure to call and give them your new information so that your records stay updated should a recovery coordinator ever need to contact you.

If your collar tag comes off, enrolling your dog in a microchip database may be your best hope for his return.



The Original AKK Breed Club

Be sure to put your lost dog poster and your contact lists together now, so they will be ready if needed.

Take close-up shots of the face and side views.

Hopefully, you'll never have to use them!

Be sure to visit our website:

www.akkaoa.org

Or email:

info@akkaoa.org

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HELP! MY DOG IS LOST!!

No one expects to lose their dog, but accidents happen. Here are a few tips you can share with someone who is looking for a lost dog or use yourself if you need to.

He's gone. What can I do? Unfortunately, accidents and theft can happen, even to the most responsible and caring dog owners. As anyone who's ever lost a dog can tell you, every minute your dog is missing seems like an eternity. And the search for your dog can be frantic.

Stay as calm as possible! And Act Fast!

- ◆ Search your house and property thoroughly. Look in every nook and cranny; small dogs can get into some mighty strange places. Look behind, under and inside everything, leave no stone unturned.
- ◆ Walk 5-10 blocks north, east, south and west from your home. Cover the four points of compass to make it easier for your dog to pick up fresh scent and sniff his way home. Take another dog along if you have more than one. Walk the neighborhood, talk to everyone, and leave your phone number and/or your lost flyer handout if you have one done & printed. If no one is home leave your lost flyer handout attached to their door.
- ◆ Talk with everyone you run across, the postman, paperboy, children (kids are good at finding lost pets) parents, neighborhood crime



watch groups, etc. Give them copies of your lost flyer handout.

- ◆ Offer a reward, but don't state the amount.
- ◆ While walking around the neighborhood have your search party call your dog's name, dogs can hear from great distances.
- ◆ Have your dog's favorite *squeaky toy* with you, use it to make familiar noises.



◆ Bring along a box/bag of your dogs favorite treats and rattle it loudly while calling his/her name.

◆ Stop regularly. Be quiet & listen for your pet to make a noise, bark, whimper or a cry in response to your calls.

- ◆ Don't worry about what your neighbors might think.... It is YOUR dog's life that is at stake.
- ◆ Bring a flashlight even in daylight to look in dark places. A frightened or injured animal will hide in dark places, i.e. under decks/porches, under houses, storage sheds, garages, under cars.
- ◆ Since dogs find their way by scent as well as sound, place strong-scented articles outside your house to attract your dog back home. Sweaty exercise and jogging clothes work well for this. Place your dog's crate/bedding and favorite toys outside.
- ◆ Leave a note on your door if you are out looking for your dog, on the note say that you are out looking for the dog, but if the person has found him/her and are bringing him/her back they can leave him/her in the crate and you will be checking in very soon, and that they can call you on your cell phone (#).

Be sure to call and visit animal control officers, shelters, veterinarians, groomers and other

animal organizations in your area. Keep phone numbers handy. Also feel free to print the *Lost or Missing Dog Report Form* from www.akkaoa.org for your convenience.

Post as many signs as possible, preferably with your dog's photo (front and side views) and your contact information throughout your area and at all the animal organizations. Have some flyers made up and on file now so if you ever do lose your dog you will already be ready to act fast. A sample (Lost Dog) poster is located on www.akkaoa.org. *Change the sample photos in the poster with the photos of your dogs.*

Withhold a couple of identifying marks and/or characteristics of your dog. Use this identifying information that was withheld if the person who claims to have found your pet cannot describe these features to you, you will know that they do not have your pet!

Place an ad in the local newspapers.

Read the found ads. Call your local radio stations to see if they can broadcast information about your dog over the air. Call the local TV stations, they may not air anything, but someone might call them and say they have found a dog, or maybe report one in a bad predicament. Sad but necessary is checking to see if your dog was killed on the road and picked up. Check with Department of Transportation (DOT) and Animal Control in your area every day. Visit their offices, befriend them and leave your (Lost Dog) poster with them. It's better to know if this is the case, than to wonder for the rest of your life.



Temporarily change the message on your answering machine that says "Hi! if you have found my dog please leave a message with your name and number on this machine and also call my cell phone now at (#), anyone else leave a message after the tone." That way they

know they have called the right place and have another way to reach you ASAP. While traveling with your dog have your (Lost Dog) poster made up on all your dogs (with their photos) so you can fill in the blanks and have copies made if you need them to post in the area where your dog was last seen, to give to local animal control officers, shelters, veterinarians, groomers and other animal organizations in that particular area. Also print off the Lost or Missing Dog Report Form that is located on www.akkaoa.org to take with you.

Most dogs are NOT traffic savvy, so if spotted get between the dog and any roadway before attempting to approach it. Another good thing to do is to sit down on the ground and call the dog to you, have some tasty treats with you.

*Don't give up your search.
Sometimes dogs are located
months after they disappear.*

**To do after your search is over...
collect all your posters/flyers
and be sure to thank
everyone who helped!**

