



# Pet Tails



Winter 2007

## Lost Pet Behavior: Finding your lost dog

By Kathy "Kat" Albrecht

In October we discussed the best way to find your lost cat. This month we continue the series with finding your lost dog.

### Prevention is Key:

A collar with an identification tag and a microchip (now available at SYV Humane Society) is the best insurance that your dog will be returned to you should it become lost. Repair loose boards and holes in fencing to prevent escape. Use chicken wire secured to the bottom of fencing (weighed down with bricks) to prevent dogs from crawling or digging out. If your dog attempts to climb or jump fences, or has any other



ID tags come in many shapes and sizes .

behavioral problems, contact a reputable trainer or an animal behaviorist for assistance. Behavior consultations are available at the humane society for a reasonable fee. No amount of prevention will keep your dog from becoming lost in certain circumstances such as during a major disaster, a burglary of your home, or a serviceman who leaves a gate open.

### Start Your Search At Your Home:

Search your own property first, and surrounding neighbor's property (with their permission) checking areas where your dog could be trapped, injured, or deceased. Dogs have become trapped inside sheds, closed inside trailers, en-

tangled in wires under homes, dropped into wells, and even fallen into neighbor swimming pools. Do not neglect searching nearby when looking for your lost dog.

### Understand Lost Dog Dynamics:

Be sure to check all animal shelters within your area. The distance that a lost dog will travel depends upon its individual temperament, the terrain and weather, along with several other variables. The question to ask when searching for a missing dog is "Who has my dog?" People who pick up stray dogs often transport them out of the immediate area. Because a large amount of lost dogs end up in foster homes and rescue adoption pro-

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## Ask Kona



Dear Kona,

At school we are learning to show respect and be considerate of people with different customs and cultures. My New Year's resolution is to be more considerate of animals also. Can you help me understand how dogs like

children to behave?  
Robert  
10 years old

Oh Robert!!  
Your question makes my tail wag!! What a thoughtful boy you are!

Teresa Lewin is a dog trainer who wrote rules to keep children safe and

dogs happy.

### Teresa's Bad Rules

1. **Do not** hug a dog, put your face close to his face or lie on him. **Do sit** beside your dog, rub his chest or scratch him on the side of the neck.
2. **Do not** play chase-

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# Pet Nutrition

By Darcie Barnes, DVM, MPVM

Recently a reader asked some excellent questions about foods animals should avoid. We didn't want to limit ourselves so we're starting at the beginning. Cats and dogs are carnivores, meat-eaters, but they have different dietary needs. Dogs are closer in their nutritional needs to omnivores, like humans, who eat animal protein and vegetation. Cat metabolism is similar to strictly meat-eaters like lions and tigers as well as the Grey Wolf and seals. Dogs can absorb several nutrients from plants while cats can digest uncooked starchy foods better than dogs.



cats enjoy canned pet food better than dry because the moisture brings out the flavor. The texture of soft, moist food is preferred over dry, powdery foods. Dogs like sugar, cats like protein. Both like fats, but cats are more sensitive to food that is rancid, adulterated or just plain old. The best way to make a food more appealing for either is to add uncooked or cooked broth.

Unless your pet has a medical condition that requires a special diet, you can choose from many quality pet foods that have passed an Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) test. All commercially sold pet foods will have information on their "nutritional adequacy" somewhere on the label. Some foods will be formulated to meet the guidelines - but watch out! This doesn't mean your pet can digest the "nutrients" included in this food. Next, check the first few ingredients. The food should be mostly meat-based and shouldn't have a lot of dyes. It's best to feed a food that is safe and has more than the minimum amounts required, but there is no reason to feed (or pay for) excess nutrients that haven't been shown to be beneficial.

Now that you've chosen the type of food, you have to consider how much to feed your pet. Dogs and cats have a very sophisticated mechanism to control their weight based on their age, sex, food availability, food palatability, physical activity levels and whether or not they are neutered. Both cats and dogs will overeat when their food is extremely palatable which can

Feral or wild cats hunt birds, lizards, insects and small mammals throughout the day. Similarly, free-fed housecats will eat 10 to 20 meals each day, the equivalent of about 12 mice. And pet cats can adjust to being fed one meal a day.

Dogs have a lot more variety in their eating habits. Recent studies show that dogs prefer different mealtimes and more or less meals each day depending on their breed. Beagles, for example, tend to munch around the clock, while Poodles and Basenjis prefer to eat during daylight hours. Preferences can also vary by the age of the dog. Puppies typically eat more frequently than adult dogs, for instance. If given constant access to food, dogs will eat anywhere from 5 to 20 meals a day! But don't run out and change your feeding schedule yet. Like cats, adult dogs do very well on one or two meals a day.

So what kind of food will your pet like? Of course there are exceptions, but overall, both dogs and

## Wish List

### Pet supplies:

Nutromax pet food  
Canned dog & cat food  
Pelletized animal bedding  
Rescue Remedy  
DAP (dog appeasing pheromone comfort & spray)  
Feliway spray

### Sturdy kennel toys:

Nylabones  
Kongs, large and small size  
Buster cubes  
Jolly balls  
Stuffed dog toys  
Squeaky toys  
Tennis balls  
Portable shade canopy

### Cleaning supplies:

Sponges  
Paper towels  
Trash bags

### Office supplies:

Copy paper  
Pens  
Highlighters  
Sharpies  
Dry erase markers

### Office equipment:

Small television with DVD player  
Canon PowerShot A540 digital camera  
Amano MRX-35 time clock

Household item donations accepted at the *House of Treasures Thrift Shop*.

## Board of Directors

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## Lost Pet Behavior

grams, you should contact all rescue groups and breed rescue groups within your area.

### Elderly, Disabled, and Small Dogs:

In general, elderly dogs, disabled dogs, and small dogs tend to be recovered quickly, often ending up within a few blocks from their escape point. Highly populated areas could mean a smaller radius while rural areas such as farmland and mountains could mean your dog will travel farther. Place highly visible lost dog posters in the area of disappearance and utilize a flyer distribution service that will mail notices to homes within a one-mile radius from where the dog escaped.

### Friendly and Purebred Dogs:

In general, wiggly-friendly dogs that readily go up to

strangers for attention and purebred or rare breed dogs will be "rescued" quicker than mixed breed dogs that often go unnoticed. Your target search activities will, in general, be an aggressive flyer distribution and highly visible poster boards.

### Aggressive Dogs, Panicked Dogs, and Skittish/Shy Dogs:

Aggressive dogs, panicked dogs (fireworks, involved in car accident), and dogs with skittish, shy temperaments will be more difficult to capture and are at risk of traveling further. These dogs will often run blindly and can travel for miles before intervention. When they eventually slow down, they will often seek out areas (wooded forest, cemeteries, creeks, etc.) where they can avoid all human contact. You should focus your search by aggressive poster board distributions initially at the escape point and even-

tually in areas of sightings. Many panicked dogs will not come to their owner. Yet these dogs seem to be willing to approach or be approached by another dog. Use a second dog (on a 30-foot long leash) and even a large, dog-sized baited humane trap to recover a dog you have found but cannot catch.

### Distribute Flyers In Your Target Search Area:

Be prepared to respond to several sightings. Be sure someone is available at all times to answer incoming calls for potential sightings. Loose dogs are mobile and can move quickly. If the caller is calling from a cell phone, ask them to remain on the phone with you to keep you updated on the dog's location. If you

have a phone answering machine, make sure you change your message to include instructions on how someone can reach you on your cell phone. If you don't own a cell phone, borrow one!

### Place An Ad:

Place ads in both your local paper and distant newspapers. Also, check the "found pet" ads in these papers.

### Use a Local Lost Pet Web Site:

Consider posting information and a photograph about your dog on a lost pet web site that lists lost pets from your area. In addition, consider using the service of PETS911 at [www.1888pets911.org](http://www.1888pets911.org), an organization that lists community-based pet services, including lost and found pet web sites.

### Do Not Be Scammed:

Sadly, there are several "scams" where thieves prey on pet owners who have lost a pet. If someone tells you to wire money because they have your pet, do not believe them! Never agree to pay a reward until

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People who pick up stray dogs often transport them out of the immediate search area.

## Lost Pet Behavior

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you have your pet in hand. If someone has your dog but demands money and won't return your dog unless you pay them, call the police. Never go to pick up your found pet alone. Tell a family member or friend exactly where you are going, take a cell phone with you, and take at least one other adult with you. And finally, be aware that anyone can take a dog, place a "SEARCH DOG" vest on it, claim it is trained to find lost pets, and charge a fee. Be certain to check references of any pet detective service that you use. Do Not Give Up!

Sometimes it takes weeks, even months to find a missing dog. There have even been cases where dogs have been located years after they disappeared. Physically, your dog is somewhere and it did not vanish from earth! Although it is possible that someone has transported your

dog a long distance from your home, you must act on the assumption that the dog is nearby and that you will recover it. If you lose hope or become discouraged by others who are trying to tell you to "give up" your search efforts, you will reduce your chances of recovering your dog.

### Factors That Influence Distances Traveled:

There are six major factors that influence the distances that lost dogs travel: Temperament, Circumstances, Weather, Terrain, Appearance, and Population Density.

Friendly dogs are more inclined to go directly up to the first person who calls them.

### TEMPERAMENT OF THE DOG -

How a dog behaves towards strangers influences how far it will travel (when lost) before someone intervenes and rescues it. There are three primary behavioral categories that lost dogs are classified into:

Gregarious Dogs, Aloof Dogs, and Xenophobic Dogs.

Gregarious Dogs: Wiggly-butt, friendly dogs are more inclined to go directly up to the first person who calls them. Depending on the terrain and population density where the dog was lost, these dogs will generally be found fairly close to

home or will be picked up by someone close to the escape point. Gregarious dogs are often "adopted" by individuals (not shelter or rescue workers) who find them.

Aloof Dogs: Dogs with aloof temperaments are wary of strangers and will initially avoid human contact. Eventually, they will be inclined to accept human contact once

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## Ask Kona

(Continued from page 1)

- me games with a dog. **Do** play hide and seek—where the dog has to find you or an object that you hide.
3. **Do not** play tug-of-war games with a dog. **Do** play fetch with a dog.
4. **Do not** lean over or step over a dog. **Do** respect a dog's resting place—go around him or ask an adult to move the dog.
5. **Do not** bother a dog who is sleeping, eating, has a toy or bone, is hurt or has puppies. **Do** wait for the dog to come to you for attention.
6. **Do not** dress a dog up in play clothes. **Do** dress up your stuffed animals.
7. **Do not** hit a dog or poke him with a stick. **Do** be gentle with dogs.
8. **Do not** pull a dog's ears, tail or

fur. **Do** scratch the dog's chest or the side of her neck—most dogs enjoy this.

9. **Do not** stick fingers or hands into the dog's crate. **Do** ask an adult to let the dog out of the crate if you want to pet her.
10. **Do not** play in the dog's crate.
11. If your dog does not welcome you with wagging and panting—leave him alone. **Do** wait for the dog to come to you for attention.
12. If your dog gets too rough or excited, be a tree until he gets bored and goes away.
13. **Do not** run and shout around a dog that is not in a crate. **Do** be calm around dogs; involve the dog in an activity such as fetch so he doesn't feel that he needs

to chase you to have fun.

Some children think they are bad rules. I think they are good rules. What do you think?

Wags,  
Kona

Kona is a 13-year-old chocolate Labrador Retriever. She is companion and mentor to animal behaviorist, Amanda Eagle. Send your questions to Kona, PO Box 1111, Santa Ynez, 93460. She will answer one question in our next newsletter.

Teresa's Bad Rules are provided by Doggone Safe!™ A non-profit organization dedicated to dog bite prevention. Copyright 2002 Teresa Lewin and Joan Orr  
[www.doggonesafe.org](http://www.doggonesafe.org)



# Lost Pet Behavior

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they have overcome fear issues and become hungry enough. These dogs can travel a great distance, but eventually can be enticed with food and patience, typically by experienced rescuers who know how to approach and capture a wary dog. Their wariness can be easily misinterpreted as "abused." In addition, these dogs are often not recovered for weeks or months after their escape, giving them the physical appearance (thinness, injuries, sticklers, ticks, etc.) that they are homeless, abused, and unloved.

**Xenophobic (Fearful) Dogs:** Dogs with fearful temperaments are more likely to travel farther and are at a higher risk of being hit by cars. Due to their cowering, fearful behavior, people assume these dogs were "abused", and even if the dog has ID tags, they may refuse to contact the previous owner. Some of these panic-stricken dogs will even run from their owners! It may be necessary to use other dogs to get close enough to capture them or to use baited dog traps.

**CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DISAPPEARANCE** - A dog that digs out from a yard to explore a scent will tend to travel a short distance before it is found-meandering and doubling back as it explores a scent. On the other hand, a dog that bolts in panic due to fireworks or thunder will take off at a blind run and can run for several miles.

**WEATHER** - A dog that escapes on a beautiful spring day may travel farther than one that escapes in a snow storm. Extreme weather conditions (snow, hail, rain, sweltering

heat) will decrease the distances that lost dogs travel.

**TERRAIN** - A dog that escapes in a residential area will not travel as far as a dog that escapes in a mountainous area. Fences will influence a dog's travel since a dog will tend to take the "path of least resistance" when traveling. Cactus, heavy brush, and steep cliffs can be barriers that influence whether or dog continues on a path or changes directions.

**APPEARANCE OF THE DOG** - What a dog looks like can influence how quickly it will be picked up by a rescuer. In general, most people are less inclined to pull over and attempt to grab a loose Pit Bull they perceive as being "aggressive" than they would a "friendly" wiggly Labrador Retriever. Also, people are more inclined to pick up small dogs - they look vulnerable and are easier to transport and house than large dogs. In addition, people are more likely to attempt to rescue a purebred dog that they perceive to have value than a mixed breed dog. When average motorists see a mixed breed dog trotting down the sidewalk, their impression is often that the dog belongs in the neighborhood or that it is a homeless stray. But when those same people see a Boston Terrier, they are inclined to believe that, because it is a "valuable purebred dog", it must be a lost pet.

**POPULATION DENSITY** - A dog that escapes in Manhattan will travel a shorter distance than will a dog that escapes in the Rocky Mountains or in rural farmland. When dogs escape into areas with a high number of people, their chances of being found close to the escape point are increased. But in areas with an extremely low number of people, they tend to travel further and their chances of being

found close to the escape point are decreased. A dog that escapes in the middle of the night will travel farther before being seen than a dog that escapes during rush hour traffic.

## Professional Assistance

Pet Hunters International, a new resource of professionally trained pet detectives (Missing Animal Response Technicians), now responds to conduct lost pet investigations utilizing trained search dogs, high-tech equipment, and other law enforcement-based recovery techniques normally used to solve lost person investigations. You can find a listing of these pet detectives at [www.pethunters.com](http://www.pethunters.com) and click on the FIND A LOST PET icon.

## Owner Behaviors That Create Problems:

Dog owners often behave in ways that actually inhibit their chances of recovering their lost dogs. Some develop a "wait and see" approach and by the time they start actively looking, the vital first few hours to locate the dog (or witnesses who saw the dog) are gone. Others fail to find their dog because they focus on wrong theories. They assume their dog was "stolen and sold to re-search" when in fact their dog might have been rescued and put up for adoption. They quickly give up their search effort because they really believe they will never see their dog again. They feel helpless and alone, often discouraged by others who rebuke them and tell them "it was just a dog" and "you'll never find your dog."

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*For more information visit [www.lostapet.org](http://www.lostapet.org).*



Fearful dogs may wander for days avoiding human contact.

## Tributes and Memorials

## October - December 2006

### Gifts in honor of beloved pets...

#### Holly

Steve & Mary Wood

#### Oscar & Nanook

Sandra Wishon

#### Skippy

Shirley Cohen

### In honor of people who love animals...

#### Guenter & Joan Kuehn

Audrey Farmer

#### Bobbie & Jim Vreeland

#### Mr & Mrs George Arnold

#### Mr & Mrs Lindsey Alberts

#### Mr & Mrs Tom French

#### Mr & Mrs Walter Pronozuk

#### Mrs Jean Garry

#### Mrs John Adler

Guenter & Joan Kuehn

#### Ryan E. Hough

Roban & Fred Lambert

### In memory of people who loved animals...

#### Amy Beeler

Wayne & Carol McMillen

#### Arlene Windh

Bruce & Liz Beeler

Dale & Patricia Starry

Ruth Starry

#### Dean Brown

Marilyn Morgan

#### Dolly Thomas

Michael & Nancy Lippman

#### Howard Marter

George Beebe

Shy & Clyde Bourgeois

Sharon Krautkremer

John & Cynthia Sanger

#### Joann Hecker

Leslie Albaugh

Platinum Performance

#### Kelli Moniot

R.Eric & Lindalee Baumgarten

Brian & Jean Chaney

Mary Gray Conners

Daniel & Judy Duffy

Bengt & Lill Engstrom

Jerry & Betty Ewing

Jan Glick

Mike & Betz Hadley

Marilyn & Milt Honea

Charles King

Michael & Nancy Lippman

C.R. & Gail Marshall

Rutledge & Carol Mills

Charles & Patricia Opp

Nelson & Sondra Owens

Ann & Donald Petroni

William & Ruth Raymond

Helen Reynolds

Douglas & Betsy Riedy

Julia & Armando Riva

Santa Ynez Feed & Milling

Justine Scarletto

Readon, Donni & Silva

Patricia Stoddart

Valley Oaks Printing

Gary Wiseman

T.C., M.E. & Heidi Youngkin

Todd Pipe & Supply

#### Pat Sharp

Edith Robinson

#### Sandy Sires

Marla King

#### Wanda Allison

Donald Allison

#### Willy Norlin

Todd Pipe & Supply

Steven Siegel & Beverly Brown

### In memory of beloved pets...

#### Bustopher Jones

Lee Ferry

#### Dinah

C.R. & Gail Marshall

#### Fricka

Sally Holt Smit

#### Frisbee

Hansford Cutlip

#### Gypsy

Christine and Dennis Beebe

#### Jasmine & Nancy Augustine

Josephine Knoell

#### Orange Baby and Cosmo

Maureen Lynch

#### Willow

Peter & Kathleen Block

#### Ziggy and Cuddles

Dennis & Jobie Brooks, Sr.

## Artistic Pony ponies up for the animals

Thank you to *The Artistic Pony* in Solvang. Sue and Jeff Moulalim hosted a silent auction benefiting the humane society at the store, which features creative and uniquely designed jewelry and gift items for the home.



They also donated a percentage of their sales for the day. Shelter volunteers brought out homeless dogs to greet visitors and look for new homes.

## Endowment goal reached

Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters we have reached our goal for the Matching Campaign for our endowment fund. The matching funds have been received and as of the end of the year, our endowment fund was increased by over \$100,000 thanks to this campaign.

Our endowment fund helps ensure that the Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society can continue helping homeless animals well into the future.



# Continue Supporting the Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society



Samantha checks out her teddy in the cattery.

Donations directly benefit the animals at the Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society and support our low-fee spay and neuter program.

The Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society is a 501(c)3 private, non-profit organization. We are not governed by nor do we receive monetary support from any regional or national Humane Society or SPCA.

We do not receive local, state or federal government funds to run our programs. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please send a receipt to:

- Address listed on the back of this form
- My cancelled check will serve as my receipt
- Address listed below

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my donation towards: Amount

General shelter and clinic operations \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Person  Pet

Endowment \_\_\_\_\_

2006 membership dues

Regular	\$25.00
Sustaining	\$50.00
Business	\$100.00
Life member	\$1000.00

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify of honorarium/memorial gift:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pet Nutrition

*(Continued from page 2)*

cause obesity. Again, check the label on the brand of food you choose as a starting point for how much to feed your pet. Remember if your pet is getting lots of treats and snacks he won't need as much food in each meal. Once you've decided on a starting amount, pay attention to your pet's weight. If she begins to gain too much weight, gradually reduce the amount of food offered. Remember, preventing obesity in your pets is far easier than losing the weight once they've put it on.

Finally, what NOT to feed your pet. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center list includes the following:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Avocado
- Chocolate (all forms)
- Coffee (all forms)

- Fatty foods
- Macadamia nuts
- Moldy or spoiled foods
- Onions, onion powder
- Raisins and grapes
- Salt
- Yeast dough
- Garlic
- Any product sweetened with xylitol (a sugar substitute)

For more information on common items that can be poisonous to your pet visit the ASPCA online at [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org).

And finally, the best source of information on what to feed your pet is your veterinarian. Internet sources are interesting, but can be completely off base or just too new to have been thoroughly tested.

## Local Wine Cellar Offers Opportunity for Community to Give

Have a glass of wine and support the SYV Humane Society! From January 17th through February 28th **Alisal Cellars** will donate a portion of every tasting to several local charities including SYV Humane Society.

Stop by on February 10th when humane society representatives will be on hand with helpful information and pictures of adoptable pets for people to peruse.

Alisal Cellars is open Sun. - Thurs 10 am-6 pm, Fri & Sat 10 am-9 pm and is located at 448 Alisal Road in Solvang.





## Expanded Shelter Hours

**Beginning February 11th** the SYV Humane Society animal shelter will open on **Sundays from 1-4**. Clients picking up or dropping of boarding dogs, families searching for a new friend or people with questions about our shelter and services are welcome to visit us during our expanded hours.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20			
24	25	26	27			
31						

Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society  
 PO Box 335  
 111 Commerce Drive  
 Buellton, CA 93427  
 Phone: (805) 688-8224  
 Fax: (805) 693-9804  
 Email: humane@syv.com  
 Website: www.syvhumane.org

### Shelter Hours:

Monday-Saturday 10-4, Sunday 1-4

### Pet behavior consultations:

Evenings by appointment

### Clinic Hours:

Tuesdays & Wednesdays by appointment

### House of Treasures Thrift Shop

393 Alisal Road in Solvang

Phone: (805) 686-9521

Hours: Monday 10-2

Tuesday closed

Wednesday-Saturday 10-4

Sunday 12-3