

Tips if Your Dog is Lost or Stolen...

- ❑ Call animal control in your area immediately to let them know your dog is missing.
- ❑ Begin canvassing right away. Ask friends and neighbors to help the search process. A dog can cover a lot of ground, so the more area you can cover right away, the better.
- ❑ If you are willing to offer a reward, do so immediately. If you are setting a reward, you should be willing to pay that amount within a day of the disappearance, and anytime after that, even if it takes a year to find your dog.
- ❑ Call the microchip company and report your dog as missing or stolen. Ask the company to freeze information so that nobody else can change the ownership and contact information.
- ❑ Call your local radio stations and spread the word to the community.
- ❑ Check your local community Web sites for a lost & found section where you can post information on your lost pet. In many communities the lost & found section is on the radio station Web site(s).
- ❑ Create and post flyers immediately. Make sure all information on these flyers is accurate. Include what happened to the dog (missing or stolen), a recent photo, when and where the dog went missing including the state, the dog's name, gender, breed, size, weight, age, color, collar & tags, microchip if applicable, distinguishing marks (such as cropped ears), whether the dog is neutered/spayed, reward amount and contact information.
- ❑ Post these flyers in the area where the dog went missing. Cover high traffic areas such as post offices, grocery stores, gas stations, diners, fast food restaurants, coffee shops, pet stores, veterinarian offices, dog groomers etc. Ask permission to post these signs. You are likely to get more shelf life out of the signs when posting permission is granted.
- ❑ If you are posting flyers outside, place them in plastic bags, such as Ziploc bags which are relatively cheap in bulk, in order to extend the flyers' shelf life.
- ❑ Create an electronic version of your flyer and send it to your e-mail distribution list immediately. Ask your recipients to forward the flyer as well. Keep an e-mail chain going, both locally and out of state. Dogs, either missing or stolen, can cover a lot of ground and therefore may turn up in the least likely place – out of state, for example.
- ❑ Go to local schools and ask administrators to post signs. It is critical that you go directly to the administration office. DO NOT canvas school property, as there may be legal implications regarding solicitation. School children tend to talk and brag, so if they have seen or have been given a dog, they will likely talk about it.
- ❑ Immediately post your dog's information on rescue and missing dog links. The Best Friends Animal Society Web site at <http://bestfriends.org/> is a wonderful national resource where you can spread the word quickly and easily. You must first sign up for an account/ membership. Once you are a member you will be able to log into the forum section and begin posting. The Best Friends Animal Society allows you to post images and communicate easily with other members.
- ❑ Post to other sites such as craigslist.com, FidoFinder.com, dogdetective.com and yahoo groups. Go to Google and search for additional sites where you can post information.
- ❑ Contact breed specific rescue groups and alert them about your missing dog. Rescue groups tend to have many local and national contacts and will be able to help spread the word quickly.

- Contact all shelters and adoption centers in your area and surrounding area. People often turn in found dogs to shelters. Or, if the animal is picked up by animal control, it may be brought to a shelter. Go to switchboard.com to pull local and state listings of shelters and adoption centers. Make sure each of these facilities has access to the flyer and information on your missing dog.
- Contact all pet stores and groomers in your area and state. Go to switchboard.com to pull local and state listings of pet stores and groomers. Make sure each of these facilities has access to the flyer and information on your missing dog. Most are willing to post flyers for other patrons to see.
- Contact all veterinarian offices in your area and state. Go to switchboard.com to pull local and state listings of veterinarians. Make sure each of these facilities has access to the flyer and information on your missing dog. Most are willing to post flyers for other patrons to see.
- Never assume that because your dog was last seen wearing a collar that s/he is still wearing it. Be proactive about searching for your pet, keeping in mind that the contact information may no longer be with him or her.
- When searching for your dog at a shelter or adoption center, inquire about other breeds that your dog may be mistaken for. For example someone may mistake a Miniature Schnauzer for a Scotty.
- It may take a lot of time and dedication to get your dog back home. Maintain hope for your dog and stay connected to the resources that are dedicated to animal health and welfare.
- Be willing to help other people search for their animals. The animal community, both locally and nationwide, is tight-knit and generous.

Good Luck & Remain Hopeful

Notes:



This tip sheet is brought to you courtesy of findaxel.com.

Axel is a 1 year old silver Giant Schnauzer pup who went missing Friday November 17 at about noon from the Silver Lake area of Deer Valley, UT. Please visit findaxel.com for details. Your help is greatly appreciated.

findaxel.com