

Guide to Finding a Lost Dog

In every story of a dog that got lost there are two sides: the frightened dog that cannot find its way home and the frustrated owners full of guilt. The guide before you will help you return your beloved dog to you.



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The street is a dangerous environment for a dog, especially when we are talking about a confused, frightened and hungry dog. Therefore it is a good idea to start searching as soon as possible in the environment where the dog disappeared. Remember that even the most confused dogs cannot get farther away than a few kilometers on their own from the location of the disappearance and in most cases they do not run in a straight line.

Have acquaintances help you, use a bicycle, a motor cycle or a vehicle and search the environment well. If the dog knows the neighborhood, it is worthwhile to search the places that are familiar to it, such as the public garden or its regular walking lanes. In addition, use the search time when you are outside to inform acquaintances who reside in the neighborhood about the disappearance of the dog.



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Preparing notices

The more people who know about the fact of your dog's disappearance the better the odds that you will find it.

Prepare short and clear notices and make sure that they include the following details: a big headline (Lost, Lost Dog, etc.) a recent photograph of the dog, identifying details (name, age, size, color, breed), the date and time where it was last seen and the most important information - the accessible telephone numbers. Offering a cash reward to the finder could encourage people to help you.

If the dog has unique markings (a stain mark, a cut ear etc) it is not recommended to publicize this. Purebred dogs are often stolen for the purposes of breeding and for a reward, therefore it is possible to add to the announcement that your dog has been castrated or neutered.

The notice should be put up in the area where the dog got lost on notice boards, bus stations, public gardens, parks and different businesses (primarily those that are connected with pets).

In addition publish a post on your facebook page and in websites and facebook pages dedicated for lost animals, send the announcement to the full list of your electronic mail and ask that it be forwarded. Also you can print the notices in a miniature form and distribute them to passersby on the street while you are searching for your dog.

In the next stage send your announcement to the appropriate authorities: to dog shelters, to the various voluntary organizations and to veterinarians in your residential area.



Updating chip data

The National Chip Data-Base of the Department of Agriculture is the most important station if the lost dog has a chip as the law requires.

The local authorities are supposed to up-date the national center for dog registration, but the details are not always exact, and in order to help the one finding the dog to find its original owners, it is important to check that all the details on the chip on your dog appear on the website and that the your details (and primarily the telephone number) are up to date.

Up-dating the data base regarding the loss of your dog will lead to a change of its status. Thus, if someone finds the dog and wants to keep it, when they bring the dog to a veterinarian a check of the chip will bring up your details, and the fact that it is written on the website that the dog was lost will light a red light for the veterinarian.

The National Chip Data-Base of the Department of Agriculture. Website: www.vtr.moag.gov.il. Telephone: 03-968-1610.

Local authority

Upon the loss of a dog you should notify the Veterinary Department of the municipality or the local authority in your place of residence.

Many departments have dog shelters and isolation stations where dogs are brought that have been wandering. According to the law, these dogs have to stay there for 10 days before they can be given out for adoption or to other factors. For this reason it is recommended that you go to the dog shelters every day to see if your dog has arrived there and to put up an announcement on the notice board there.

The details of the veterinary departments of the authorities can be found on the website of the Department of Agriculture (www.vtr.moag.gov.il). In each department it is possible to receive details regarding the isolation station where the dogs are sent from the authority's area.

Veterinary clinics

There is a big possibility that someone finding a lost dog will take it to the veterinarian to have its chip checked to find the dog's owners, or to have the dog given a general check-up and inoculations if he wants the dog to stay with him.

It is highly recommended to up-date the veterinarian and the animal clinics in your residential area about the loss of the dog and to send them the announcement that you prepared so that they will post it.

To find the veterinarians and their clinics you can use the Yellow pages website and other websites. If your dog does not have a tag, it is recommended that you also inform the pet hospital, since the dog may have been in an accident and someone with a good heart might have brought him in for treatment.

Voluntary organizations

Aware people who find dogs wandering around sometimes try to bring them to the voluntary organizations that are working for the welfare of the animals. Unfortunately, most of the voluntary organizations refuse to receive abandoned animals, but it is a good idea to get in touch with them and to check if such and such an animal was brought to them and to send them the announcement that you prepared. Similarly, it is recommended to go into the societies' websites and to look over the pictures of the dogs that are being offered for adoption.

The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Israel, never shuts its gates before any animal in need of shelter and protection. When an abandoned dog arrives we are careful to check if it has a chip, and we make a great effort to find the owners even if the particulars on the chip are not exact. If the dog does not have a chip, the law demands that we put it in isolation for a specific period.

We recommend visiting us every day and checking if your dog has arrived at the Society and sending us the announcement that you prepared by fax to 03-518-5889. Various philanthropic organization (primarily those that do not have a dog shelter under their authority) organize Adoption Days at specific places and times. It is recommended that you find out the exact details, that you get to the place and check if the person who found the dog is trying to find a home in this framework. Similarly, in different cities in Israel, people try to sell dogs in the street, primarily on Fridays. For the most part we are speaking of puppies, so that if you lost a puppy there is a possibility that the person who found it will try to sell it in one of those places.

Detectives

For those who do not have any free time, who do not get along with the fax and internet technologies or for those who want to be certain that they have done everything in order to bring back their beloved dog, there is an additional means, which is to turn to a detective. Detectives who have experience in locating animals are found in connection with the various factors. Their help, of course, demands a fee.



Means of protection

Many dog owners are not aware of the great number of dogs that get lost and the dangers awaiting them. We, in the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Israel, deal every day with this common phenomena, when wandering dogs are brought here, and when owners come searching for their lost dogs. In order to prevent the heartache for the dog and for you, below are ten means of prevention. When you are careful with them you will significantly lessen the possibility that your dog will get lost.

1. As the law demands, take care to always leave the house with the dog on its leash. From our experience, even dog owners who swear that their dogs are educated, trained and obedient, always walk at their side and listen to their calls and their orders, are surprised to discover that their dogs have started to run and leave them in the wake of some type of stimulus. Even if you are certain that your dog will listen to your instructions - please do not take risks - and do use a leash. Thus you will also be obeying the law, taking care of your dog's security and the security of humans and other dogs.

2. An additional law that is overlooked by many dog owners is the obligation to have an electronic chip placed on the dog. The electronic chip is extremely important and many times its presence on the dog will determine if you will merit to see your dog again after it gets lost.

Means of protection

3. Sometimes it is not enough to just have a chip on the dog and it is important to make sure that the data on the chip and the details of the owners are up-to-date. Many times the National Chip Center is not up-to-date on the details of the chip that the dog is carrying, and therefore even if you have followed the instructions of the law and made sure that the dog has been "chipped", it is recommended to keep the chip center informed so the details they have are correct and up-to-date.

4. Make sure that you have attached a tag to the dog's collar with your up-to-date details and telephone numbers. If the dog runs away or gets lost, it will not be at the time or location that is good for you. Even if the best case scenario happens and somebody finds the dog and wants to return it to its owners, it is possible that this will happen in the evening or at night when most of the veterinary clinics will be closed. The honest person finding the dog who wants to bring the dog back by means of a chip scan will not be able to do that until the morning. (or until he has free time). A small tag with your telephone number will save your search time and the valuable time of the person who will find the dog.

5. Even if you are not professional photographers, it is a good idea to photograph your dog once in a while and to make sure that the identifying unique markings appear in the photograph. If the dog gets lost, an up-to-date photograph will be useful, both for the needs of preparing an announcement and also for the needs of proving ownership of the dog.

6. The castration of the male or the neutering of the female will lessen the possibility that they will run off. A castrated dog, for example, will not be tempted to chase a female dog in heat and to lose his way back home. As is known, these operations have many health advantages, and we encourage them in order to prevent uncontrolled births of unwanted puppies who will find it difficult to find an adoptive home.

7. A dog is a social animal that needs other dogs and the society of people. Boredom is one of the factors in dogs running off, and therefore try not to leave the dog alone in the home for long hours every day. Leave it toys and games, a radio playing and when you take it out for a walk after long hours in the house take care to give it a long walk and let it let off energy. It needs that.

8. You know your dog well and you know what its abilities are. In order to prevent its running away, make sure that the door is closed (and locked if the dog knows how to open doors) and that there is no other way of escape that could tempt the dog to go outside. Be aware of the possibility that the dog may run away and instruct the other family members about this.

9. The move to a new apartment is likely to create confusion in the dog and the desire to return to its previous and familiar domicile. In this case, take care about the rules in the previous section. In addition to this, at the first stage after moving, take the dog for long walks in the new neighborhood (with a leash!) and let it get to know its environment.

10. Strengthen the connection between you and your dog. The dog needs a leader who will give it limits and will teach it what is permissible and what is forbidden. If the dog knows to listen and to obey you, the communication between you will be better and the possibility that it will run away will decrease.