



2012

**“I Got A Sighting!
Now What...?”**



You've worked hard to get a sighting....



Make sure you are prepared to get as much information as possible!

Use a Sighting Journal

Many people get overly excited and in an attempt to rush to the sighting location they forget to ask important questions



Remember!



Get the name and phone numbers of the person who saw your dog so you can call back if you have further questions!

Question to Ask about Sightings

To record sightings, use a spiral notebook or create a database on the computer. Keep a record of all calls in one place & keep your log with you at all times. There will be times when you will be calling back for more information or to confirm the sighting.

Think of this as an interview – Ask questions and listen -- you are trying to find out information about your missing dog.

First of all, be sure to record the name of the caller & their phone number.

Ask simple questions like *where did you see my dog?* Ask them to be specific. For example: the dog was going north on Ash Street towards the Bay City Mall. On the other side of the street was Walmart.

When did you see my dog? Again, ask them to be specific. The dog was seen at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 5th. It was raining at the time.

Can you describe my dog?

What was she doing? Was she trotting, running, darting in & out, sleeping, playing with other dogs, walking, etc?

Sometimes to get the person to talk, you can ask questions like – was she wearing a collar – what color is the collar? Did she seem ok?

How was she carrying her body and tail? Was she low to the ground – almost like crawling, tail up or down, wagging?

After each sighting – post it on the map whether it is a printed map or a google map. These sightings will help determine where to continue to pass out fliers, post intersection signs & possibly to set a trap or use other means (like luring your dog, leaving a yard gate open, etc.) to secure your dog.

Arriving at Sighting Location

- Don't slam the car door!
- Stay calm – dog will feel nervous energy and may take off again
- Have smelly food & treats, leash and collar ready
- Try to recreate in your mind the scenario of the sighting as per the phone call

IF you see your dog (possible, but not probable)

- Sit or lie down by yourself and scatter tasty treats around you and WAIT quietly.
- May take minutes or hours for the dog to creep towards you.
- Sleep, read, send emails – but put your phone on silent and don't talk on it.

If you DO NOT see your dog

- DON'T waste time driving around
- Immediately go door to door and flyer – speaking with everyone.
- If no one is home – leave a flyer that you have written on: “SEEN! 4 p.m. May 31 at edge of your property” or “corner of this block” or “across from the Pick n Save”

Remember! Stay Calm!

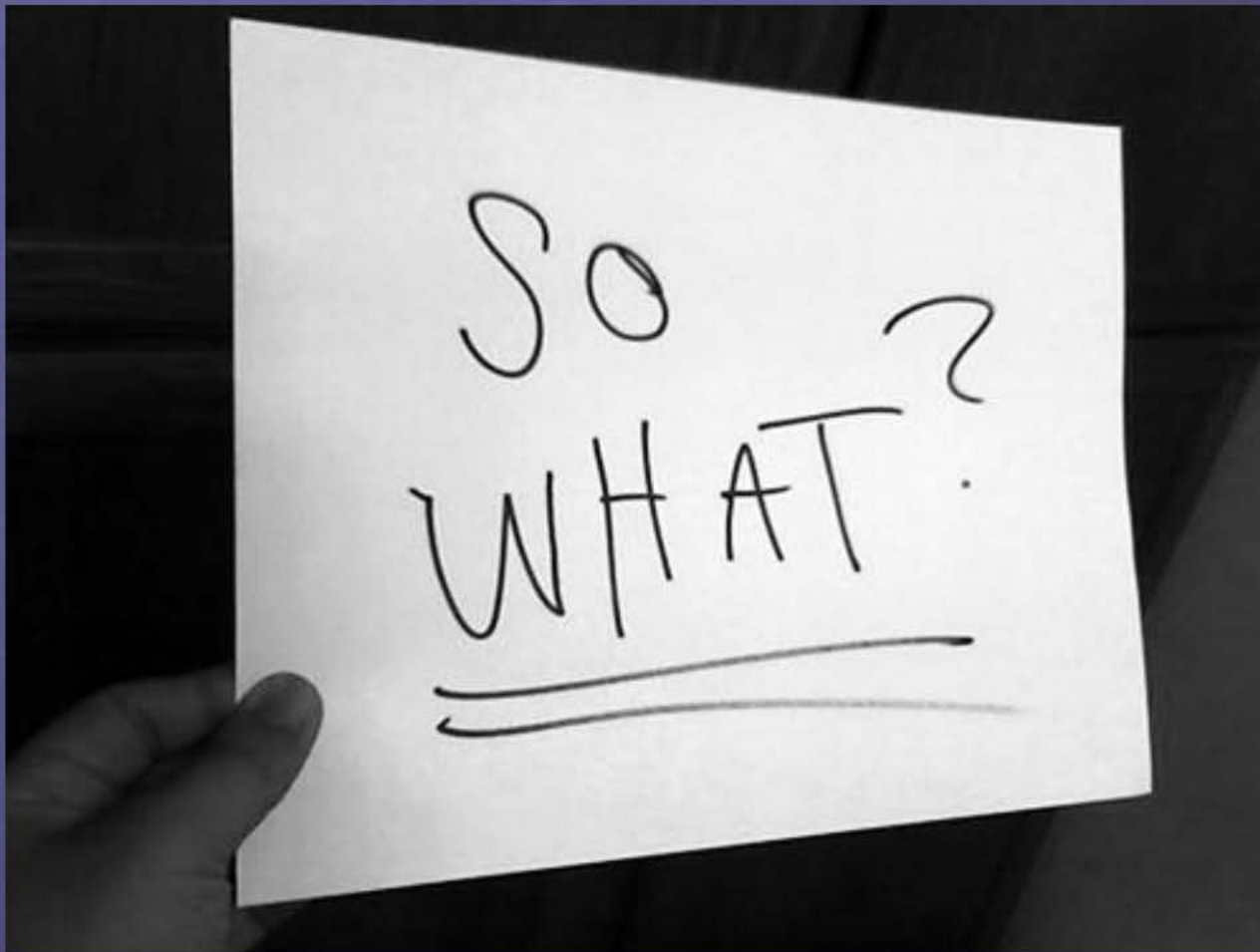
YOU must keep control of your emotions and the situation. You must not chase or call your dog or allow others to do so. This will prolong the search of a shy, wary dog.



Top Ten Reasons Owners Give Why NOT to Leave Food

- Raccoons will eat it
- Cats will eat it
- Other dogs will eat it
- Skunks, possums, aliens will eat it
- Will attract coyotes and foxes
- Dog will get loose stools or upset stomach
- Dog will get some rare deficiency disorder from eating cat food
- Food will get wet if it rains
- Don't have a dog food bowl
- Too expensive

The Answer -



The Food

- Will encourage dog to stay in the area
- Will help him let his guard down a little



Also Leave

Something that smells familiar to your dog— a dirty sock, dirty t-shirt, his bed or a toy



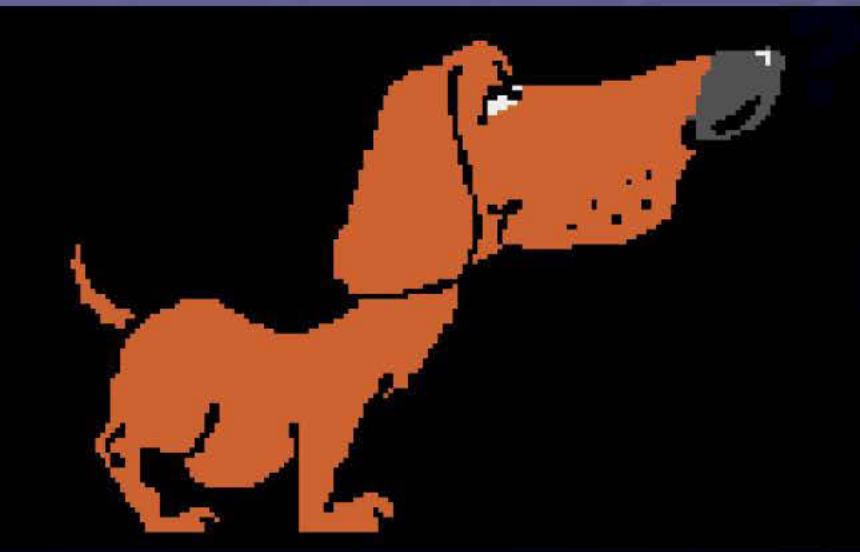
But leave **FOOD** before go back home to get these items!
Your dog may return to eat while you are gone.

If you are having trouble with other animals eating the food

Use bacon grease and pour it on the ground. The odor will attract the lost dog.



A Dog's Sense of Smell



Is 1000 times stronger than a human's sense of smell.

Dogs return to a location by smell. Not by sight or sound.

Don't be too quick to dismiss a sighting

- Most sightings are legitimate
- Dismissing a sighting can be a big mistake and can prolong your search
- Don't dismiss a sighting unless you are absolutely 100% certain it was the wrong dog

Before leaving the area

- Leave FOOD! Anything – cheeseburger, canned cat food, hotdog from the convenience store – ANYTHING except dry dog food.
- Ask somebody to replenish food twice a day if you can't do it
- Quantity – enough to keep the dog from leaving the area but don't overfeed!

If possible set up a trail camera facing the food



Ask friends that hunt if they have one that you can borrow.

They are a great tool to check if your dog is coming at night.

No Trail Camera?

- Sprinkle cornstarch or fireplace ashes on the ground around the food so that you can check for dog tracks.
- A damp, white towel works well also.



If you are going to walk the area
of a sighting location

Leave FOOD by your
car and possibly leave
the car doors open!



Dogs in Survival Mode

- Only concerned with 3 things



Finding Food (and Water)



Finding Shelter and Hiding Spots



Avoiding Predators (even their owners!)



Sitting in a Car at Sighting Location

- Can be a good idea
- Open a can of food and put it in your line of sight
- Sleep, read, check emails, talk quietly on phone, relax, meditate, drink coffee, pray or whatever – but give it time!

Alerting Neighbors to a Shy Dog

PLEASE HELP US



If you get multiple sightings from one neighborhood and your dog seems to be settling in there, then ask your Lost Dogs of Wisconsin caseworker to help you word a new flyer to distribute in the area. You will need the neighbors help.

Remember!

Never Give Up!

- Dogs have been successfully found days, months and even years after they have gone missing.
- By following these procedures you are on the right track to a successful recovery of your dog.

