

# ROAMING DOG CHEAT SHEET

These are the phases that are required to capture a roaming or shy dog under most circumstances. You absolutely cannot skip Phases. It takes patience and persistence. This cheat sheet is meant to show you an overview of the process and techniques. You will need the "Lost Dog Guide" or one-on-one support to obtain the details for these items.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Do not chase a roaming or shy dog!
- There are different levels of shyness. Some dogs are just timid, while others are catatonic.
- A dog might be frightened even by calling their name.
- Roaming or shy dogs gravitate to open spaces, but tend to stay near in close proximity to people. See "Pinpoint Area."
- Most roaming / shy dog cases benefit from expert help and advice – don't try to do it alone!
- Finding a lost pet takes a team – ask for help! Use facebook to get volunteers.
- Every case is different – these are general guidelines to help you get started.

## PHASES

- Phase 1: Get a Confirmed Sighting of your Dog – Use Major, Wide-reaching Witness Development
- Phase 2: Pinpoint the Area your Dog is In
- Phase 3: Get Your Own Sighting – You get a visual of your dog!
- Phase 4: Use Feeding Stations to Lure, Keep Your Dog in an Area & Train Your Dog to Come to a Specific Area
- Phase 5: Use Wildlife Cameras to Get Pictures of Your Dog, Your Dog's Behavior and View Your Dog's Habits
- Phase 6: Use A Humane Trap (or Trapping Service) to Actually Trap Your Dog
- Phase 7: Safely Transport Your Dog to A Vet & Home

### Phase 1 Get a Confirmed Sighting of your Dog - Use Major, Wide-reaching Witness Development

- You need multiple confirmed sightings of your dog. You also need sightings if your dog is on the move – a wide radius is important.
- Use these Witness Development Techniques: Giant Neon Posters, Banners, Billboards, Use Car for Advertising, Flyers/Business Cards, Giant Picture of your Missing Pet and Media. See the Lost Dog Guide.
- Place signs and banners thinking of greatest exposure such as freeway on/off ramps and busy intersections.
- Two most important points on a flyer: the photo of your dog and your phone number. Other details are not as critical and may be distracting.
- Make bilingual if appropriate.
- Include "Shy – Do not chase!"

### Phase 2 Pinpoint the Area your Dog is In

- You need to pinpoint areas your dog is most likely to end up at and saturate these areas with Witness Development, perform Spotlighting, use Wildlife Cameras & Feeding Stations. See Phases 1 & 4.
- Identify "Greenspace" areas such as golf courses, canyons, fields, schools, along freeways, rail road tracks, hiking trails, parks, open spaces, sometimes industrial areas & construction sites.
- You are looking for MULTIPLE confirmed sightings in one area over a minimum of 24 hour period.
- The radius depends on a variety of factors. Start with 1-3 miles.
- Use Spotlighting at night.
  - > Spotlighting is using a high-powered Spotlight to shine into open spaces.
  - > The best way to Spotlight is to drive slowly in your car while someone shines the light to target areas.
  - > An animal's eyes will "shine" and reflect back.
  - > Optimum monitoring time is dawn and dusk, when it is getting dark out.
  - > This is absolutely NOT the same as using a flashlight!
  - > This technique is perfect at fields, golf courses, canyons, etc.
- The area can change because of lack of food/water, being chased, dog looking for home, etc.
- For extremely shy dogs, DO NOT conduct invasive, regular searching in area. It can scare your dog away.
- Dogs can take a while to "settle" into a territory. You may be following sightings & the dog for quite a while.
- Don't give up before your dog has a chance to establish a safe hiding place!

### Phase 3 Get Your Own Sighting – You get a visual of your dog!

- 80% of sightings are the wrong pet or a false lead!
- Get a picture or video of your dog. Usually you will get your sighting from the Wildlife Camera.
- If you see your dog in-person, patience is key. Unless your dog is in immediate danger, take a calm breath and watch your dog's behavior and body language.
- If your dog is just timid, use a smelly lure to see if your dog will come up to you. This might take 3 hours and may take a while for your dog to catch your scent. Pay attention to wind direction. Get in a submissive, nonthreatening position, such as lying down. You may want to camp out overnight.
- It is better for your dog to come to you than you to go up to your dog.

### Phase 4 Use Feeding Stations to Lure, Keep Your Dog in an Area & Train Your Dog to Come to a Specific Area

- Use Feeding Stations in the area.
  - > It is key that Feeding Stations are easily accessible to you.
  - > Use very smelly bait such as sardines, baked chicken, TV dinners, etc. Bait should be warm, such as mixing sardines with rice or heating up TV dinners. Place the food on a paper plate in the center of a layer of sand or flour and test to make sure you can see a print. If the pet comes to eat, they leave a print in the sand or flour. This helps identify if it is possibly your dog.
  - > Test the sand or flour first by pushing your finger into it and making sure you can see your finger print.
- If you get dog prints at a Feeding Station, place a Wildlife Camera there the next night.
- Do not "fiddle" with the Feeding Station often. Re-bait once a day, usually in the evening at the same time.
- If ants are a problem, use ant spray on the ground. See the "Lost Dog Guide" about keeping raccoons and other animals away.
- Place a few Feeding Stations around the Pinpointed Area or where there are confirmed sightings. Scent will carry 20 – 250 feet minimum depending on wind direction and terrain.

### Phase 5 Use Wildlife Cameras to Get Pictures of Your Dog, Your Dog's Behavior and View Your Dog's Habits

- Cameras are a key technique in many cases.
  - > Get a minimum of 2 Wildlife Cameras as soon as possible.
  - > Position camera pointed towards food at sighting areas.
  - > Use warm, stinky bait – baked chicken, fast food, TV dinners, etc.
  - > Try not to disturb the area. Check pictures a maximum of 1 time a day if possible.
- Refresh the food at the same time every day. Evenings are ideal.
- If possible, use a "time stamp" option on your camera.
- Consult with a Pet Detective or Animal Behaviorist to view the video and pictures of insight into your dog's behavior.

### Phase 6 Use A Humane Trap (or Trapping Service) to Actually Trap Your Dog

- Humane traps are basically like big dog crates, but with a trip plate that locks a pet inside safely.
  - > Test the humane trap completely, including the door when sprung to make sure it can't be pushed open from the inside. Never leave a trap set and unsupervised for long periods of time.
  - > Use stinky bait, like with the Feeding Stations or Wildlife Camera.
  - > Placement of the trap is important – on even ground away from people and cars.
- If ants are a problem, use ant spray on the ground. See the "Lost Dog Guide" about keeping raccoons and other animals away.
- Point the Wildlife Camera at the trap to get pictures of animals that approach but don't go in. If possible, get video.
- In cases of extremely shy dogs, you may need to consider a Drop Trap, Box Trap, or Net Trap. Consult the "Lost Dog Guide" or get one-on-one assistance.
- Look into homeopathy or natural calming products such as "Composure" dog treats.

### Phase 7 Safely Transport Your Dog to A Vet & Home

- Once you have your dog in a trap, secure the seams and doors with heavy-duty zip ties.
- DO NOT REMOVE YOUR DOG FROM THE TRAP UNTIL YOUR DOG IS SAFE INSIDE YOUR HOME OR VET WITH LOCKED DOORS AND WINDOWS.
- Give your dog some time to relax and recuperate. Some dogs act as if they were never gone, others act clingier, and some are more shy and skittish.
- Take your dog to the vet as soon as possible and have a full blood panel and screening done.
- Get a GPS or locator unit on your shy pet!
- Make sure to remove all of your Witness Development and spread the word that you found your dog!