

Find Fido!

Important steps to take in Eastham to locate your dog

1. Organize your information. Fill out Your Pet Information Sheet that describes your dog, its last known location, and include a picture.
2. Contact the following with the information:
 - Eastham Police Department (508) 255-0551
 - Nauset Pet Services (formerly Nauset Kennels) (508) 255-0081 - all stray pets are brought here by the Eastham Police Department
 - National Seashore Park Rangers (508) 255-2112
 - Animal Rescue League of Brewster (508) 255-1030
 - Eastham Veterinary Hospital (508) 255-0149
3. Contact EDOA's Lost Dog Network via the website. From there, you can enter information that will be mass emailed to all members alerting them to a lost dog.
<http://www.easthamdog.org>
4. Contact neighboring police departments (as appropriate)
 - Orleans Police Department: (508) 255-0117
 - Wellfleet Police Department: (508) 349-3702
5. Print "Lost Dog" flyers and posters. See Lost Dog Search Tips for advice. Flyers and posters can be reproduced in Orleans at
Sir Speedy (508) 240-0882 180 Rt 6A
Staples (508) 240-0425 128 Rt 6A
6. If your dog was micro chipped, contact the appropriate registry:
 - Home Again: 1-888-HOMEAGAIN (1-888-466-3242)
<http://public.homeagain.com>
 - Petlink (Bayer): 1-877-PETLINK (1-877-738-5465)
<http://www.petlink.net>
7. Publicity: consider placing a classified ad:
 - Cape Cod Times: <http://www.capecodonline.com> (508) 775-6201
 - Cape Cod Today: : <http://www.capecodtoday.com>
 - Cape Codder: (508) 255-2121 (a weekly paper published on Friday)
Copy deadline: noon on Wed. Contact Marilyn Miller at MMiller@cnc.com
 - Craigslist Cape Cod: <http://capecod.craigslist.org/laff>

8. Internet Lost Pet Listings and/or Services:

- <http://www.fidofinder.com> (free listing)
- <http://www.petamberalert.com> (fee for service, broadcasts posters)
- <http://www.findtoto.com> (fee for service, makes telephone calls)
- <http://www.aahahealthypet.com/FindAPet/LostAndFound.aspx> (free listing, American Animal Hospital Association)
- <http://www.missingpets.com> (free listing)

9. Additional search tips:

- <http://www.lostdogsearch.com/index.htm>
- <http://www.missingpetpartnership.org/recoverytips.php>

10. The EDOA will assist you with Lost Dog signs and will provide markers to use on the windows of you car. Once you have completed the online Lost Dog form, someone from EDOA will contact you.

Internet access:

Eastham Public Library
190 Samoset Road, Eastham
(508) 240-5950
closed Sun & Mon

Snow Library Orleans
67 Main Street, Orleans
(508) 240-3760

Wellfleet Public Library
55 West Main Street, Wellfleet
(508) 349-0310



YOUR PET INFORMATION SHEET

Pet Name: _____ (name he will respond to if called) Age: _____

Owner's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Breed: _____ Color: _____

Dog License Number: _____ Town: _____

Any Distinct Markings/Colors?

Approximate Size/Weight: _____

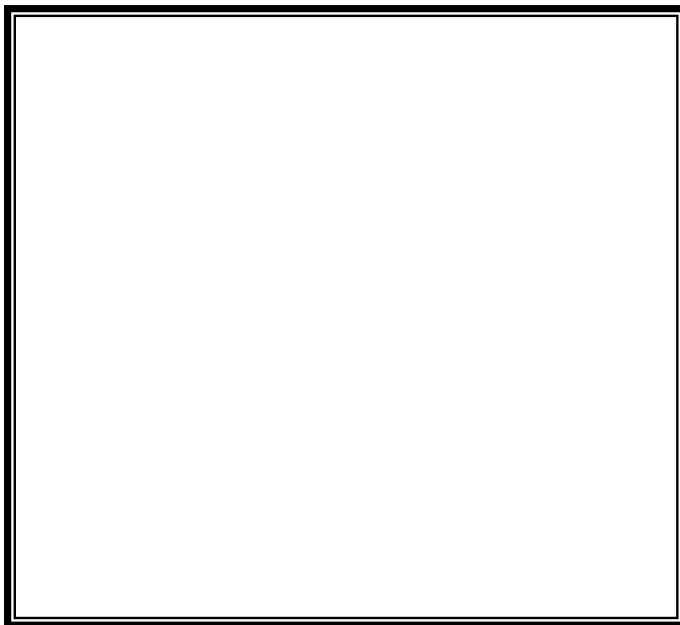
Secondary Contact Info: _____

(in the event the owner cannot be reached or is out of town)

Area Last Seen (be specific): _____

The EDOA recommends contacting the Police Department, Nauset Kennels, and the Animal Rescue League in Brewster in the event your pet is missing (see our Lost Dog Checklist for more information).

The best way to ensure identification is with a photo. Please place a photo of your dog in the area provided below.





Lost Dog Search Tips

Based on prior experiences, this document provides general guidance – not rules set in stone. If your dog is lost, contact, seek advice from, and work with animal control and care professionals.

- Get started immediately! Don't assume that your dog will return immediately on its own.
- Get your information organized
 - Complete the Lost Pet Information Sheet
 - To involve EDOA's Lost Dog Network, complete their online Lost Dog Report at www.easthamdog.org.
- Get as much help as possible – notify neighbors, local police departments, animal control officers (often part of the local police department), kennels, pet services companies, veterinary offices, etc.
- Bring along a favorite toy that makes a noise. This, together with food, may entice your dog to come to you.
- Change the greeting on all phones listed as contact numbers on the flyers.
 - It's important to encourage people to leave a message (some will hang up when they hear a recording)
 - Sample message: "Hello, if you are calling about our lost dog, please leave us the day, time, the street (and nearest intersection) or exact location you saw him/her. Leave your name and telephone number in case we have questions. Thank you."
- Critical pieces of information may not be obtained when the sighting call ends up as a voicemail message.
 - List at least two phone numbers on all notices that will reach a person who can ask questions
 - Keep your cell phone charged
 - Make use of call waiting by keeping your phone line open.
 - Prepare a list of questions to ask the caller (see sample message above)
 - Keep paper and a pen with you at all times (take notes so that later, you can remember all of the information)
 - Remember, the person may have only had a fleeting sighting of your dog
 - Don't immediately discount somewhat inaccurate descriptions
- Mark the location where the dog was lost and all locations where there was a sighting on a map (use a pencil so false alarms can be erased)
 - Look for a pattern to guide searchers
 - Have volunteers go door to door in those areas
 - Get permission to search backyards (your dog may be hiding under a deck, in an open shed, etc.)
 - Mark where posters were put up and where flyers were distributed
- Prepare posters and a large number of flyers as described later on.
- **Don't get scammed.** Unfortunately, there are unethical and sadistic people who will try to try to take advantage of you at this stressful time.
 - If someone calls and describes your dog from your ad and says, "I found your dog", ask if your dog has an imaginary identifying mark that could not result from being lost. If they answer in the affirmative, it is not your dog; hang up, you don't want to deal with either a con artist or a crank caller.
 - If someone tries to blackmail you into a higher reward before returning your dog, try to make sure they have the right dog (or any dog at all) and ask the person to meet you in a public place. Then go with another person to meet them. Don't be taken advantage of. If it is your dog, offer a token reward.
 - Recent scams include people calling for out-of-state airfare for your lost dog. They

might say your dog has been stolen and dumped far from home and they found him 200 miles away. Don't fall for it.

Lost Dog Posters

Posters must draw attention to the information they contain. The poster board should be as large as possible and should be a bright fluorescent color. A motorist driving by only has a few seconds to get the message.

- The Town of Eastham permits signs up to 12" X 24".
- Stencil LOST DOG in large print on the poster. If you are willing to offer a reward, also stencil REWARD on the poster. See examples below.
- Place a flyer in a plastic sheet protector (to protect it from the elements) and attach to the center of the poster.
- Mount the posters, using duct tape, so that the flyer is just above eye level.
- Besides targeting the vicinity where you dog was lost, mount posters at busy intersections. The Eastham Dog Owners' Association can help with this task.



Flyers

- You may wish to have two sets of flyers: one set for mounting on the posters and the other for distribution.
- Do not use an ink jet printer. In both cases, the flyers should be printed on a laser printer so that the printing will not run if the flyer gets wet. Locally, the flyers can be reproduced at either Sir Speedy or Staples.
- Distribute the flyers to local stores and restaurants, people in the neighborhood, community bulletin boards etc. You will need a large quantity. Flyers are generally less expensive when printed in bulk.

Flyers for the posters

- Since "REWARD" and "LOST DOG" are already printed on the poster board, you can use the larger print for the breed, color, or other critical statements (see example above).
- Remember, someone needs to get the message quickly while driving by ("5 second, 5 word rule")
- You may also wish to use a larger photograph

Flyers for distribution

- For these flyers, you should state REWARD and LOST DOG

REWARD



LOST DOG
Chocolate Lab

“Hershey” is a 5 year old neutered male who ran away when he was frightened by fire crackers on July 4th. He was last seen on the Bike Trail near Samoset Road in Eastham. He was wearing a fluorescent orange nylon collar with a Worcester dog license. He is a family pet and our children are heartbroken. Hershey has **diabetes** and needs insulin twice a day. He is very friendly but may be very frightened. We are visitors so he does not know this area.

PLEASE HELP US.

Please call 508-XXX-XXXX 24/7 if you have any information.

Information for the flyer

- Be specific: Use the information from your questionnaire. Include all identifying information, where it was lost etc.
- Include a photograph of your dog. If your dog is pure bred, you may be able to use a generic picture (but indicate that the picture only looks like your dog)
- “Reward”: A reward tends to motivate people. However, don't state an amount. If you make the reward too large, like \$5000, people will wonder about the dog's value and some people may not want to return your pet.
- “Family Pet”: Referring to the dog as a "family pet" tends to motivate people to look. Advertising it as a "show dog," "breeding dog," "therapy dog," or "search and rescue dog" is not a good idea. The individual may not want to return your dog.
- “Health Problems”: State if your dog has health problems particularly if it needs medication. This will create a sense of urgency as well as to discourage someone from not returning your dog.
- “SPAYED Female”: Always say a female is spayed, whether she is or not. This is to protect the dog from unscrupulous people who might see a breeding opportunity.
- “Dog’s Personality”: It is important to describe your dog’s personality with instructions and how to approach your dog. For example "Please try and coax her into your garage or fenced yard and call us." If the dog is not friendly or could be a fear biter say, "Don't attempt to corner her. Simply call us with her location ASAP."

Using your car as a large, mobile poster

- Use ½" wide tip **waterproof** fluorescent markers (removable with glass cleaner)
- Use multiple colors to make your message stand out
- Missing Pet Partnership recommends NEOMarkers (manufactured by Neoplex) for durability in the rain.
- Convey the critical information in large (3 to 4") letters
 - Breed/ description
 - Where lost
 - Your phone number
 - Reward (if you are offering one)
- If possible, attach a photo of your dog in a plastic sheet protector
- Ask friends if they would put your message on their cars



Distribution of Flyers

- Post in Businesses
 - Retail
 - Bicycle Rental stores
 - Restaurants
 - Motels
 - Sporting goods/ bait shops
- Distribute to residences in the area where the dog was lost and sighted
- Community Organizations
 - Churches
 - Council on Aging
 - Library
- During Town events
- Distribute outside very busy stores
 - Stop and Shop etc.
 - Under windshield wipers
 - Have volunteers hand them out
- Community bulletin boards
- Individuals who drive around Eastham
 - Mail carriers
 - DPW
 - School bus drivers etc.
 - UPS, FedEx etc.
 - Utility companies

Once the Dog Is Located.

The following is taken verbatim from www.lostdogsearch.com.

Some formatting has changed for ease of readability but content remains identical.

It seems like forever, but you finally spot the dog – now what?

- Be prepared to outsmart it.
- Be forewarned, not shocked – your dog might not run to you AND might run away from you.
- NEVER walk around a search or sighting area without the leash and bait.
- ALWAYS have a leash and a quart-sized bag of “bait” in your vehicle.
- Carry at least 8 hot dogs or an equivalent amount of food, such as bits of liver, chicken, and meatballs. “Cesar” brand dog food comes in a small plastic tub with a peel-off, soft foil top. Tubs pack easily in a pocket – get non-gravy varieties to store in the car as “emergency” bait.
- Wrap the leash around your waist like a cinch belt, so it’s outside, handy, and ready to use.
- As an added incentive, bring along a favorite toy or item normally associated with happy playtime.

Remain calm upon arriving at a sighting location where your dog has been seen recently.

- Don’t slam the door to your vehicle, don’t shout, and if you see the dog, *don’t* rush towards it.
- A dog might feel safe and stay hidden under a deck, *or* bolt - knowing escape routes are limited. A dog sitting in an open field might wait to see what you’re up to, *or* bolt - just to be on the safe side.
- You never know how close you’ll be allowed to get, so give the dog time to adjust to your presence.
 - Start talking, using familiar phrases that *usually* get a positive response, such as “want to go for a ride?” or “do you want a cookie?” Say whatever makes the dog the happiest and gets the quickest response.
 - Never approach a dog head on. Turn, face sideways, and *walk very slowly* with arms close to your sides. The dog must accept every step you take, even if it takes you a half hour or longer to advance 100 feet.
 - Never show your teeth if you smile – that’s the same as baring your teeth (growling) in canine language.
 - Never stare at the dog – not only is that a challenge, a predator stares at its intended prey before attacking.
 - Avoid making *any* sudden body movements.
 - Stop moving and sit down if the dog is going to bolt.

If the dog stays put, slowly lower yourself to the ground and immediately assume a non-threatening position BELOW the dog's eye level – on your belly, sitting, kneeling, or flat on your back.

- You must try to be positioned as low as you're supposed to be; otherwise you're still "dominant." Many people have to earn their dog's trust, just like a stranger would have to do. This is not unusual.
- Keep the dog's attention focused on you by talking. Speak to it slowly, using soft and reassuring tones. Use only positive and happy phrases such as "what a *good* girl!" or "puppy-puppy-puppy!"
- Now, try to get closer towards the dog by crawling. Let its body language be the guide as to how fast and far you go. Get within 40 feet *or* to a point where the dog will be able to see and smell the food you're going to toss. Whenever you move, do it slowly.
- To help ease the dog's anxiety, make submissive gestures every few minutes, such as closing your eyes for a few seconds and bowing your head down and off to one side.
- Bait food bits are used to lure the dog towards you, so eventually it's standing next to you, wanting more. Hold the bait out, pretend you're eating some and *enjoying* it. Smack your lips and lick your fingers. Say "It's pretty good stuff....do you want some?" and immediately start to share a little of the bounty.
- With a gentle *underhand* motion, toss a few thumbnail size bits of food in the general direction of the dog.
- Toss each tidbit so it lands progressively closer to you and wait for the dog to eat before you offer more. The dog might grab a tidbit and retreat a little, or move closer to you.
- **Praise all forward movements.**

DON'T OVERFEED A DOG! Why should a wary dog come to you if it's no longer hungry?
DON'T RUN OUT OF FOOD! Why should a wary dog go to someone who has nothing to offer?

- Luring a dog successfully can take minutes, hours, or repeated attempts over time.
- When the dog is less than an arm's length away, you should already know what will work best - a gentle hand or quick grab. Cautious ones often back away when you reach out towards them, or try to touch their head or neck area.
- Offer food in just one hand (low to the ground) and keep your "good" hand free and *dry* (not "slippery").
- If the dog's being friendly and has a collar, stroke it softly under the chin and gently attach a leash to the collar with your other hand.
- If the dog seems happy but isn't wearing a collar, try to get an adjustable collar or lead over its neck (*two* leads are better). Be gentle, but quickly adjust the collar to a snug fit.
- What if the dog's at ease, has a collar, and is taking food from you, but looks like it's going to bolt soon? *Focus* hard on the collar and grab it the next time the dog bows its head and is eating out of your hand. Quickly attach a leash and wrap it around your wrist several times so it can't jump away and take off.
- What if the dog is friendly and eating from your hand, but doesn't have a collar and won't let you pat it? Grab the dog by its neck or body as it eats from your hand, and pull it towards you. Hang on using a whole body hug and quickly slip a lead (or two) around the dog's neck, putting on a snug collar ASAP.

For personal safety, the "grab/hold/body hug" method should only be attempted on your own dog.

When trying to catch a dog, you can startle it a little or a lot, and it can startle *you* with a yip, nip, or *bite*. If the dog has lost a considerable amount of weight, its collar might be loose and easier for you to grab. A loose collar also allows a dog to slip out of it easily. Hold on tight and take up any slack immediately.

A SECOND METHOD: Let the dog find you, instead of you trying to find the dog. Look along the dog's usual travel route for a good ground location to put a blanket, then get into position and wait with the bait and "happy" items. If you know the dog's approaching, throw down a light trail of bait leading to you. Even if a dog's caught off-guard momentarily, you're in an excellent position to start talking and offer it good food and toys.

- Many lost dogs are exhausted and can be further stressed by well-intentioned people that hang around in groups for too long.

If attempting to lure, a dog must be focusing all of its attention on just one person.

- Everyone else should "disappear" into key locations so they can see where the dog goes if it bolts, *and* be prepared to lure the dog should it come anywhere near them. Work your group efforts efficiently.
- If determined to follow a dog that bolted, be discreet and TRY not to let the dog know you're chasing it. *Many* an elusive dog has known the exact location of the searcher who is tromping around in the woods. There's often more than enough room for a dog to stay out of sight and still remain in the immediate area.

Newly adopted and fostered dogs get lost, as do "rescued" ones during transport - it's not that uncommon. If you don't know each other all that well, teach the dog to recognize you and trust your scent.

- Let the dog start associating you with food and water that appears every day on a regular basis, at a specific spot. Even when it's out of sight, call the dog by name or *give it a name*, and talk to it as if it's listening to you.
- Sit down for quiet "bonding" visits - in time, the dog may come out so you can see it, and later allow you to "be" there as it eats. It's not always easy, but a new and happy life is still a reality for many lost dogs.

NEVER grab a dog you don't know – you risk being bitten or seriously hurt, *and* you'll have to receive preventative shots if the dog's rabies vaccination history is unknown or isn't up to date.

DON'T give *unlimited* food or water to a dog that's been lost for a great length of time - you might make it seriously ill or worse. See a veterinarian immediately or go to a 24-HR emergency clinic.

**When you find your dog, remember to remove all posters and flyers.
Cancel all internet alerts.**