

# FINDING A LOST DOG



Those of you who have lost a pet are familiar with the fear and panic you have when you realize that your pet is missing. Hopefully, the following information will provide some tips in recovering a beloved pet, or, conversely, about what steps you should take if you find a lost pet.

If your missing pet is a **RAGofAZ** dog, it is essential that you notify a Board member or Team Manager. We have the resources to get a large number of people together in a short amount of time. Your **RAGofAZ** dog should **ALWAYS** have the **RAGofAZ** tag on its collar, even after you adopt the dog. If you choose to use a collar other than the one **RAGofAZ** provides, please move the yellow bone tag to the new collar. This is just one way to ensure that your dog will find its way back home.

All **RAGofAZ** dogs are micro-chipped. Even though we register the micro-chip to the new owner, the micro-chip also remains registered to **RAGofAZ**. If you move and do not remember to notify the micro-chip company, **RAGofAZ** will be contacted, so it is important that you at least notify **RAGofAZ** if you move.

## **CONFIRM THAT YOUR DOG IS MISSING**

Check your entire house including in bathtubs and behind/under furniture, in the garage (look under any vehicles) and out in the yard including back corners, under bushes or outdoor furniture and behind air conditioner units. If the dog is, indeed, missing, try to determine how the dog got out and how long he has been gone.

## **VISIT NEIGHBORS**

Once you have confirmed your dog is missing and you have contacted **RAGofAZ**, drop everything and start talking to people in the area where your pet was lost. Take a photo of the dog with you. Talk to everybody you run across, including the mailman, children, garbage pick-up crews, etc. Leave your phone number and a written description of the dog with people in the neighborhood. If your dog has a favorite squeaky toy, bring it along and use it to make familiar noises. Place strong-scented articles outside your home to attract your pet. Animals find their way by scent as well as by sound. Place some of your dirty clothes outdoors. Place a dog's bedding and favorite toys outside. Someone should stay at home in case the dog is found so that the searchers can be notified.

## **FLYERS**

Make flyers on bright yellow paper. List the date and place your dog was lost, the breed, sex and age but always withhold several identifying marks and characteristics. Use a current photo of your pet, but **DO NOT PUT THE DOG'S NAME OR YOURS ON THE FLYER** – just put your telephone (preferably a cell phone) number. Whether your dog does or not, you might want to include **NEEDS MEDICATION** on the flyer. Offer a reward, but don't state the amount. Post flyers at major intersections (but do not put them on utility poles!) so the flyers can be seen by the largest number of people.

## ONLINE

Use social media to help locate the dog. Post your flyer information on **RAGofAZ's** Facebook page, your own Facebook page, and Facebook.com/LostDogsArizona; also post on Craigslist. In addition, post the information on helpinglostpets.com, PetAmberAlert.com, lostmydoggie.com, petharbor.com, findfido.us and pets911.com.

## PHONE

Telephone all vets within a 5-mile radius of where the dog was lost to notify them of your missing pet. Then, drop off flyers to all of these vet clinics, as well as to any pet shops, beauty shops, grocery stores, churches and schools within that 5-mile radius.

## CALL

Pets911: 1-877-875-7387

LostMyDoggie: 1-877-818-0060

## VISIT

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control Service facilities (MCACCS) every day to see if your pet is there. Your description of your pet and their descriptions rarely match. **YOU MUST GO LOOK!** Check all areas of the shelter. Dogs are often housed in the cat section of the pound.

Eastside Animal Shelter 2630 W. Rio Salado Pkwy., Mesa

Westside Animal Shelter 2500 S. 27th Ave., Phoenix

Humane Society 9226 N. 13th Ave., Phoenix – they send strays to the pounds, but it's worth checking here anyway and leaving a flyer with them.

If you find a lost pet, Arizona law requires that you hold the dog for six days before you can consider it yours or surrender it to a rescue group. During that 6-day period, you must be diligent in trying to locate the dog's owner. Put up flyers in the area and post on the numerous Internet sites listed previously, concentrating especially on Facebook and Craigslist.

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR DOG NOW

- Safeguard your pets before they are lost.
- Pet-proof your yard fence. Check your fence regularly to be sure it is in good repair and that the dog has not started to dig under the fence. If he has, fill in the hole and consider having your fence extended underground by at least 1 foot.
- Keep fence gates securely locked.
- Never allow your pets to roam free.
- Keep a leash on your dog at all times.
- Get some good photos of your pet **NOW**.
- Always keep a collar on your dog with a tag that has your **CURRENT PHONE NUMBER** on it.
- Be sure your dog is micro-chipped (**RAGofAZ** dogs are always chipped, but protect all of your pets); if you move or change your telephone number, notify the chip company so they can update their records.

- Be sure your dog has a **CURRENT** rabies tag.
- All **RAGofAZ** dogs **MUST** wear their **RAGofAZ** tag even after they're adopted.
- We have been most successful in locating lost **RAGofAZ** dogs because of the **RAGofAZ** tag and the micro-chip. If you have lost or misplaced your **RAGofAZ** tag, please contact **RAGofAZ** to get your dog another tag.