

If you're reading this article more than likely you're somewhere in the process of trying to find a lost dog, maybe even a lost English Bull Terrier. Depending on where you are in the process, this article has tips and proven strategies for getting your dog back.

Recent incidents of lost Bull Terriers in the Dallas area, gave way to a number of action items you may find useful. Initially, what seems to matter most in these situations is quick action. The need to get the word out around town in a timely manner is critical. So, based on real-life experience and lessons learned the hard way from club members, and a little research on the internet, here are a few tips for producing a happy ending to what can be a very sad beginning.

- 1) Canvas the neighborhood as soon as possible with as many volunteers as you can muster.
- 2) Immediately have a flyer made and leave that in all mailboxes, on door steps during this initial search. (These first few hours are critical. You've got to get ahead of the dog and make contact with as many people as possible.)
- 3) Visit local schools. Ask to have the flyer posted in the school. Kids love dogs and vice versa. Let them know there is a REWARD!
- 4) Flyers need a picture of your dog, your contact information (a cell phone is best) ensure you have both the words: REWARD and NEEDS MEDS prominently listed. Post these flyers everywhere:
  - telephone poles (which can violate city ordinances, so make sure to remove them eventually)
  - on stakes at busy intersections
  - bulletin boards in grocery stores
  - bulletin boards in laundry mats, community centers, gas stations, dry cleaners and restaurants
  - Commit to checking back with them at least weekly to let them know how your search is going. When you find your pet, take every one of them down and thank folks for their help.

This site has some good sample flyers to post, use door to door and for Animal Control/Shelters:

<http://www.basenjicompanions.org/health/lost-dogs/>

Remember it's hard to make a flyer without a current picture of your pet. We have an advantage due to the unique look of Bull Terriers, but remember in many cases no one can locate your five-year-old dog from a puppy photo. (Initially, though, on the first trip through

the neighborhood, a flyer with the basic info will do. Don't waste a day designing an award-winning flyer. Time is crucial.)

- 5) Fax or deliver the flyer to local veterinarians and shelters. If your dog is chipped, tell them. Distinguished markings, tell them. Tell them you will follow up in a day or two and do it!!!

This site can be used to develop a list of shelters and rescue organizations in your area:

[http://lairds.org/Kyler/old\\_Purdue/animal\\_rescue/](http://lairds.org/Kyler/old_Purdue/animal_rescue/)

- 6) Call the POLICE! Insist an officer visit your home and take a report because your dog may be stolen! Unfortunately, in most states, pets are simply property. If you had to sue to recover damages, you can recover the cost of the pet but not the pain and suffering and other damages. In other circumstances this works against you, but in this situation, use it to your advantage.

Explain to the officer that you fully intend to press charges if your pet is found in another's possession. Explain the value proposition: Bull Terriers are relatively rare and even rescues often command five hundred dollars for an adult and more for puppies.

- 7) Notify local utility companies or rubbish disposal in your area. Especially important if you have meter readers or curbside service. These folks get around in your community. The local ice cream truck driver has to get a flyer.
- 8) Postal Employees. Talk to them, but they might not take a flyer. In some cases they have helped turned dogs to their owners, but it's a delicate situation for them.

Now, a word of warning:

**BEWARE OF PEOPLE  
WHO WILL USE YOUR GRIEF TO LOCATE THEIR NEXT VICTIM**

There are many con-artists and scams out there, people who will try to take your money or perhaps even your liberty.

- 1) Never meet someone alone to pick up your dog. Have someone go with you and wait outside the car – visible to the other party for the exchange. Ask the local police go with you. Have them drive your dog to a public area or they can call the local animal control to pick up the pet for transportation to the shelter

- 2) Do not give REWARD money until you have your pet back.
- 3) Do not give directions to your home to a stranger wanting to return your pet – meet them in a public place with lots of activity. For example, a school parking lot may be busy on a school day but deserted at 4:00 p.m. Same with municipal buildings, but there is normally someone at your local police or fire station.

Telemarketing can help

National telemarketing petfinders will put together a telemarketing call list and call house-to-house in an area where you feel your dog is wandering. This type of direct calling by a live person is probably very effective on weekends especially and within the first 24 hours of your dog going missing. For roughly \$100 you can call a 40-block area. If you have a good idea he's in a certain area this service is effective, if you have no clue, it's a shot in the dark and maybe your flyers would be more effective.

A few websites where you can post a missing dog advertisement.

[www.dogdetective.com](http://www.dogdetective.com)  
[www.missingpets.com](http://www.missingpets.com)  
[www.flealess.org](http://www.flealess.org)  
[www.findfido.com](http://www.findfido.com)  
[www.k911.com](http://www.k911.com)  
[www.terrificpets.com](http://www.terrificpets.com)  
[www.petfinder.org](http://www.petfinder.org)  
[www.ostandfound.com](http://www.ostandfound.com)  
[www.missingpet.net](http://www.missingpet.net)  
[www.find-a-pet.org](http://www.find-a-pet.org)  
[www.pets911.com](http://www.pets911.com).

Most of them are free, and there are some cheap upgrades on them (like statewide alerts to humane societies and vets).

Classified ad in the paper with photo online.

Have your flyer converted to a more substantial sign you can have made cheaply at FastSigns. Place these at the largest intersections.

Some local club members note:

"Doing all this work produced an average of one call per day when our dog was lost. These calls allowed us to track him for 8 miles, across the southern part of town.

Those calls were the main thing that helped keep our hopes up, the fact that we received random calls that he was okay and still on the move.

Days after he was returned the calls kept coming in. It's amazing how far he traveled in the amount of time he was loose."