



# LOST DOG RESCUE METHODS

## HOW TO GET A LOST DOG IN SURVIVAL AND FLIGHT MODE TO COME TO YOU, AND STEPS FOR RESCUE

**DO NOT CHASE, CALL OUT, OR USE THE DOG'S NAME** Even a friendly dog can become extremely traumatized and fearful when lost and may not even recognize its own family members. Their senses, including smell, can be affected, and when people have been calling and chasing the dog, it could run, even from family, farther from home and into danger.

**GET DOWN ON THE GROUND, TURN AWAY FROM THE DOG, & DO NOT MAKE EYE CONTACT** Standing up, facing forward, eye contact, and even a smile can be interpreted as aggressive behavior. If the dog is watching you, that is good.

**SPEAK IN A CALM, SOFT VOICE, BUT NOT TO THE DOG** If possible, take another dog that is bonded with the lost dog. If alone, talk to yourself, and if known, use the other bonded dog's name, and words and phrases familiar to the lost dog.

**USE STRONGLY SCENTED TREATS OR MEATS** Toss treats away from you, but not directly at the dog. Act like you are eating them, making "yummy" sounds. Crinkle treat bags or paper. If after a lengthy period, the dog is still not approaching you, try lying down as though you may be sick or injured. Some dogs will instinctively respond to a human in trouble.

**BE PATIENT** If the dog starts to approach you, stay down. DO NOT get up or lunge at the dog. Once the dog has calmed down, and if you are family, it may finally recognize you and come happily to you, or it may begin to trust a friendly stranger or human in need. Let the dog come to you. If possible, use a slip knot leash or collar to slowly and gently put on the dog from under the dog's head. DO NOT put your hands or leash over the top of the dog's head, which could cause it to bolt.

**IF DOG IS ON THE RUN** If the dog is moving or running from you, DO NOT pursue or call out to it, but if you can get a good distance ahead of it in the direction it is traveling, WITHOUT driving it farther away or into a dangerous situation, drop strongly scented treats or meats to get it to follow the trail to a safe area. Set up a station of food and water, and things familiar to the dog, such as the family's dirty laundry, the dog's bed and toys, etc., to help keep it in the area for further attempts to calm it or possibly set a live trap. Take pictures of it, note the area where it was seen, and call the experts:

**Boulder Animal Control 303-441-4444 or 303-442-4030**  
**Boulder County Animal Control 303-441-3626**