

- Cars
- Homes
- Jobs
- Shop
- Subscribe
- Ads
- Wicked Local Sites
- Classifieds
- Contact Us

# THE DAILY NEWS TRIBUNE



- Homepage
  - News
  - Obituaries
  - Sports
  - Opinions
  - Entertainment
  - Lifestyle
  - Business
  - Multimedia
  - Blogs
- Local Sports | Pros and Colleges | **Sports Columnists**

INTERNET | DIGITAL TV | PHONE **\$90** A MONTH **RCN**



Back Home Share: E-mail Print Comment Digg del.icio.us

## How to find a lost dog

Photos



Associated Press  
Washington Humane Society Director Michelle Otis poses with her dog, Misu.

By Linda Lombardi, FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**GHS**

Posted Jun 13, 2008 @ 12:12 AM

NO DATA — To you, the Fourth of July is a day of fun and fireworks. But to people who work in animal shelters, it's the day when too many dogs go astray.

"It's the worst day of the year," says Jim Monsma of the Washington Animal Rescue League. "Dogs that never could jump that fence sail over it when the fireworks start."

Scary loud noises are one risk but there's also simply that door or gate left open by people coming and going. And that can happen any time of year to the most responsible owners, even professional animal people, like Tara de Nicolas and Michelle Otis, both employees of the Washington Humane Society who each lost dogs when other people accidentally set them free.

A friend of Otis' was taking out the trash and left her gate open while the door was ajar, she says. "The dogs all took off."

So pet owners need to be prepared. All dogs should have two pieces of ID, says Monsma: a collar tag and a microchip, which is inserted quickly with a needle, and contains a code number that allows a central registry to locate your contact information. With a good, clear collar tag check that the information isn't worn away or out of date a neighbor may return your dog before you even realize he's gone.

But if you're not that lucky, time is of the essence get going right away:

Call in a lost report to the local shelter. Also ask if they've received any found reports, and be careful how you interpret them, people may not describe your dog the way you do. And be sure to call shelters in neighboring districts as well. Otis' two dogs ended up in the next county.

Get out and talk to people. "Ask everyone you come across, but in particular, ask the kids and the mailman," says Monsma. You may think people don't notice, but Otis got information that allowed her to narrow her search to a four-block radius, and let her know that her pug and French bulldog weren't seen together.

- Make large, eye-catching posters, and smaller flyers to hand out.

Top Ads Homes Cars

- About Women By Women, P.C.
  - Angie's List
  - Annual Bay State Games
  - Arsenal Center For The Arts
  - Aspen Dental
  - Benjamin Franklin Bank
  - Bill Shea's Countertops
  - Boston Private Bank & Trust Company
  - Boston Symphony Orchestra / Boston Pops
- More Top Ads

- Extras
- Mothertown
  - Parents & Kids
  - Arts & Entertainment
  - GOODlife
  - Readers Choice

Recent Stories

ADVERTISEMENT

**MOUNT AUBURN HOSPITAL HEALTH CONNECTION** EXCELLENCE IN CRITICAL CARE

Related Links

- Don't depend only on a tag for pet ID (06/12/08)

Include a picture, contact information and where the dog was last seen. And make sure to offer a reward. Otis only received a call about her French bulldog once she added a reward to her poster. This is particularly important for small breeds, which people are more likely to keep.

- Use the Internet including neighborhood listservs, your own e-mail contacts, any way you can think of to get local publicity.

You can also use the Web to see if there's a pet detective for hire in your local area, but remember the first few hours are crucial, so don't waste that time talking to people long-distance when you should be out pounding the pavement.

- Be persistent.

"The people who keep looking and don't give up are the ones who get their dogs back," says Monsma. De Nicolas, friends, and even strangers who read about her lost Jack Russell terrier, Tinsley, on the Internet searched for six straight hours, eventually finding her hiding in an alleyway. And that would have sounded easy to Otis, who only got her French bulldog back after several days, and her pug after several weeks.

"You hear those stories, pets going missing and turning up months later," Otis says she reminded herself when she started to give up hope. In fact, people may even keep an animal for a period and then turn it into the shelter as theirs, which is exactly what happened to her pug.

"The woman had no idea I was looking for her," says Otis. But the shelter had the lost report, and checked the microchip, which allowed the dog to be positively identified. It was a lesson in making sure you have proper ID on your pets and then not giving up hope.

If you find a lost dog, remember that someone is counting on you. If there are no tags, call the shelter. Ask about lost reports, and submit a found report. And go to the shelter or a vet to see if there's a microchip that can be read.

Be careful what conclusions you draw from a lost dog's behavior. There's no reason for a naturally timid dog to be friendly to you he can't know that you're trying to help.

De Nicolas's Tinsley, like many dogs, is afraid of strangers. "The pads on her feet had been worn off, she'd been running to get away from people," she said. So never assume that a dog that seems frightened or injured was abused and the owner doesn't deserve it back.

- Alexis Rockman paints Mother Nature in a foul mood (06/15/08)
- Jewish in America (06/15/08)
- Rock stars in home decor (06/13/08)
- And puppy makes three (06/13/08)
- How to find a lost dog (06/13/08)
- Old dishware has little value (06/13/08)
- Big Bugs for a beautiful planet (06/13/08)
- Hopkinton swimmer dips into annual Charles River race (06/13/08)
- Extreme Makeover: Foam Edition (06/11/08)
- Summer: Time to try something new (06/11/08)


Mother Nature in a foul mood (06/15/08)

**VACATION OUTLET**  
The Hottest Deals Under The Sun

**CRUISE FROM BOSTON TO BERMUDA**

**EXCLUSIVE - UP TO \$100 FREE GAS!**

**Sail from \$699!**  
Best Prices Guaranteed.



**24/7 EXPERT ADVICE**  
1-800-TAKEOFF

[www.vacationoutlet.com](http://www.vacationoutlet.com)

<p><b>Lost Dog</b> Have You Lost Your Dog? Get Free Info On Lost Dogs With Blurtit Now! <a href="http://Blurtit.com">Blurtit.com</a></p>	<p><b>Lost Pets</b> Post A Nationwide Message Or Photo Here. Contact Now! <a href="http://www.LostYourPet.net">www.LostYourPet.net</a></p>
--	--

- Site Map: [Homepage](#) | [News](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinions](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Business](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Blogs](#)

Comments (0)

Login or register to post a comment:

**Login**

Username:

Password:

[Forgot password](#)

**Register**

Email:

First Name:

Last Name:

I agree to the terms of use

I am over 13 years of age

**The Daily News Tribune** | 738A Main St. Waltham, MA  
[Contact Us](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) |  
 Copyright © 2008 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.  
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.



IYP and SEO vendors: Advertiser profiles | Zope Corp.

WEB BROWSING REDEFINED