

Lost Greyhound! A real life experience...

A Greyhound mom posted the following messages on RDRP's bulletin board during the time her dog, Sofi, was missing.

Re: Lost Greyhound! - Tuesday 7/27/10, 8:05am

All three of my girls went after deer last night when I was taking the out trash. I was able to get two in, but Sofi vanished. I am 6 miles east of I-75, north of Fruitville. Sofi is white with fawn markings. She was wearing ID.374-3342. Thank you. Mary Ann

Re: Missing Dog! - Tuesday 7/27/10, 9:41am

My shepherd (her best friend) and I searched for her until 11 last night. He picked up her scent but lost it about 1.5 miles from the house.

Re: Missing Dog! - Tuesday 7/27/10, 5:02pm

No word or sighting, yet. Only response my Craig's List posting got was a scammer. Thanks to Geri and Elaine for their help today. The support was so nice. The brush is so dense out here -- the thickets are impossible to search. Trying to find a deputy friend of mine who has a bloodhound trained in search and rescue... It's Sofi's dinner time right now - she should be tapping her wristwatch. Thanks again.

Re: Lost Greyhound! - Tue, 7/27/10, 9:02pm

I keep trying to change my post on Craig's List (to fit McCann's advice) but it won't go through. I need to delete and start anew.

It's been a very difficult 26 hours. At this point, I don't trust my eyes to see straight.

At dinnertime, I let all the dogs out in the yard, hoping that would entice her home. I heard her best friend Jasper "chirping" and ran outside, only to discover a rather large snake was striking at both of my shepherds. The "junior" was attacking it, the "Sr." was decoying. While Jr. had disemboweled it, it was nowhere near dead so, I had to finish the job. Not something I am good at. I think I lost another gallon of sweat on that one. Finally beheaded it, the disemboweled belly full of eggs. Once I had the cadaver contained, I googled it—broadband water snake. They bite and emulate cottonmouths, but are not poisonous.

Tomorrow I will start fresh. My printer chose today of all days to crash. A friend is printing the recommended poster by McCann and another is going to personally check animal services tomorrow. I plan to hit the print shop before 8 a.m. My other problem is my brand new "upgraded" Verizon Blackberry gets no signal from my house. I have to get a new phone tomorrow. Or, reactivate my old one.

Thanks again for your help. It's hard to go to sleep when a loved one is lost. - Mary Ann

Oh - I got in touch with the deputy's (with the bloodhound) supervising LT: the LT called him personally on my behalf. Emmy's not trained for that kind of work and it would set her up for a sense of failure. I appreciate that. Gonna go look one more time and try to get some sleep. Tomorrow is another day...

RE: SOFI, SAFE AT HOME!!! - Wed, 7/28/10, 6:47pm

First, I want to thank all of you. So does Jasper, Laura, Rocket and Vincent. They were sick without their sister. We are 5 again. Sofi was found North/West of the Sarasota Airport. Manatee Animal Services gave me the address. I googled it -- 19.2 miles is the shortest route. She was a mere few blocks from Sarasota Bay.

Physically, she is just fine. Just exhausted. Her footpads are fine and her only injury is basically skinned elbows and two tiny scraps on her profoundly strong buttocks. Clorhexiderm and Animax tonight, the vet tomorrow morning.

Peg said the lady that found her said she looked like she was covered in cigarette burns... Oops, no, that's my Sofi. Those are tiny scars—my favorite scar is when she climbed the hibiscus tree to get the top blossoms and got stuck --- when I found her (who ever looks up to find a lost dog???), she jumped out of the tree, skinning her shin. She has many boo-boo's, ranging in costs of repair from \$400 to her most recent \$1500 boo-boo. For her to travel that far, that fast, with NO injuries is purely a miracle.

Little segue to my happy, happy ending: She pretended not to know me at Manatee Animal Services. She loved all over the kennel staff and receptionist like no tomorrow. She refused to make eye contact with me. My precious Sofia Bettina, embarrassed and showing off. Once she was in the back seat of my SUV, she finally let down the adrenalin, relaxed and slept all the way home.

The other dogs were ecstatic—her best friend shepherd could smell her in the car. I had to explain to the other dogs that she was exhausted and needed her space. They were so exuberant at her return, but they contained themselves. I led her into her private walk-in closet (she's claustrophobic, so no crates) and the other kids behaved, gingerly sniffing and kissing her. Dogs are awesome. I am steaming some rice for her most likely upset tummy dinner and will pressure-cook some chicken wings. Melts the bones but saves the nutrition. Most likely, she needs a massage. She always does.... she is such an athlete. Not a sprinter—tons of stamina. I found

out all my neighbors drive by slowly, just to watch her run. She likes to race the cars along the four thousand foot fence line—the speed limit here is 29 mph, she can run faster and longer. She is “poetry in motion.” She loves to run and hunt. Ironically, she was never raced.

Please forgive my exhausted drivel: I’ll get to the point. McCann’s Information on finding a lost greyhound said you need an “army of people.” The precious people that helped me directly were Geri, Peg, and Elaine. They sustained me. It was the “army of prayers that saved her.

Thank you all.

Signed,

Sofi, Laura, Rocket, Vincent, Jasper and Mary Ann