

LOST DOG BEHAVIOUR



Human Behaviour

Human behaviour can often create problems when dogs go missing. Owners must not delay in asking for help. It is common in missing dog cases to take a wait and see approach to the situation. You may believe that your dog will return home when they are ready. This can occasionally happen, but the reality is that hours of valuable search time could be wasted and there are only so many hours of light in a day to search effectively. Another common issue is when an owner develops tunnel vision, this can considerably lengthen the recovery time. Owners must be open to taking advice or you could be focusing on the wrong recovery theories. Failing to listen to professional advice can prolong the search considerably.



Reasons Why Dogs Become Lost



Opportunist Escape

This is where a garden gate or front door gets left open. Some dogs will stay safely within their normal boundaries, but others will naturally be tempted to go out and explore. They simply follow their noses and go on a journey.

Wanderlust

Often seen in intact males, these dogs look to escape and will go to drastic measures to find their freedom. Dogs like this can dig, climb, bolt out of doors, wriggle through gaps in fences and even pull away from their owners in an attempt to break out.



Panic

This occurs in a situation where the dog's fight or flight response kicks in which makes the dog run in pure panic. Nervous dogs can be prone to responding in this way as well as dogs that are scared by loud noises such as gun shots or fireworks.

Dogs that have suffered a traumatic event such as a car accident are also likely to take off and behave in a similar way. This is the group of dogs that can be the hardest to catch as they tend to travel great distances and move at speed, they will avoid all human contact.