

# DISTANCE TRAVELLED

The temperament of each individual lost dog will influence the distance that they travel.

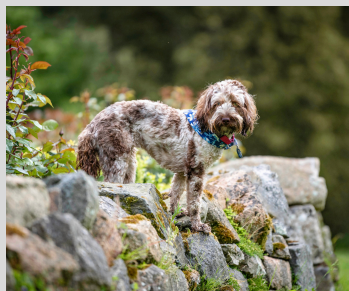


## FRIENDLY DOG

These gregarious dogs are over friendly and absolutely love people. They are highly likely to be picked up quite close to home or the point they went missing. This will not only depend on where they became lost but also on how many people are around the area at the time. Friendly dogs are very approachable and are inclined to independently go up to both humans or other dogs.

These dogs are wary of strangers and tend to avoid human contact at first. Aloof dogs will often accept contact over time if they can overcome their fear issues and when they begin to get hungry. These dogs can travel great distances but an experienced rescuer will be able to entice and lure them with food if they have the skills and the patience.

## ALOOF DOG



## FEARFUL DOG

These dogs are officially known as xenophobic dogs which means they have a fear of anything that is perceived as foreign or strange. Fearful dogs will travel much greater distances and have a higher risk of being hit by cars. These dogs are most likely to run from humans and even their owners in panic. There is an increased chance of needing to use humane baited traps to capture a fearful dog.

## CIRCUMSTANCES

The circumstances surrounding the disappearance of a lost dog will also help determine how far the pet will travel and how long they will remain missing. A dog that follows a scent trail out of the open garden gate and enjoys meandering around a nearby field is less likely to travel as far as the dog who bolted out the front door in the middle of a thunderstorm.

**Weather** – Extreme weather will play a part in how far the lost dog will travel. A dog lost on a sunny spring evening could travel much further than a dog that goes missing during a snowstorm.

**Terrain** – A dog that escapes in a residential area will not travel as far as one who escapes in the middle of the countryside. Fences and walls create physical barriers which stop dogs travelling in straight lines, a similar situation can happen in the countryside with stock fencing, cliffs and even the shoreline influencing the direction of travel but is more prevalent in urban areas.

**Appearance** – The appearance of the dog can influence how quickly they get picked up. A people friendly Labrador bounding merrily down the road is more likely to be approached by a person than a wandering Bully breed that can naturally look quite stern. Little dogs tend to look vulnerable and are much easier to physically pick up and carry than a large dog which you might struggle to fit in the car. Pure breed dogs are more likely to get picked up than a scruffy looking mixed breed dog, these dogs can appear quite street savvy and give the impression they are travelling with purpose rather than looking lost.

**Population** – The population density of the area that the dog was lost in will play a part in how far they travel. If an area has a higher number of people, the dog's chances of being found will increase. A dog lost in a town will not travel as far as a dog lost in the middle of open farmland.