

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR GREYHOUND IS LOST

If your Greyhound is lost responding quickly can make all the difference in the world. Acting immediately can make the difference between having your beloved companion home that day, or having to search for several more days and worrying where he/she is and if they are OK. The following is a checklist of things you should do as soon as you realize your dog is missing.

If you have lost a Greyhound in The Villages - **contact Carol Bellavia immediately**- via the following phone number **352-801-6278**. We will organize a search party using other Greyhounds, and a squawker. We will contact via the phone tree to contact anyone available to head out and search.

### **Provide the following information:**

- a. dogs' name
- b. color (black w/white paws, brindle, fawn, white, etc.)
- c. ear tattoo numbers
- d. exact location where dog was lost

1. **Contact your local animal shelters** and/or animal control agencies to file a lost dog report, in some cases, shelters ask that you come in personally to file a lost dog report, if that is the case, be sure and have the above data with you as well as a photo of your dog.
2. **Call your veterinarian** and other veterinarians in your area to alert them that your dog is missing. If your dog has been found and is injured, the person who found the dog will probably bring him/her to the closest veterinary office.
3. **Put up "LOST DOG" flyers** all over your neighborhood. Include a photo of your dog if possible, contact phone numbers and information about the dog - name, color (remember most people don't know what fawn or brindle mean, tan colored or black/tan tiger markings can sometimes work better), dog's disposition (friendly, fearful, etc.).
4. **If you live near any of the local schools** visit and ask teachers and other employees if they have seen the dog. The dogs will often gravitate to areas where children are playing.
5. **Canvass your neighborhood.** Get family, friends and neighbors to join in searching for your dog. The Villages Greyhound Club will also use the call tree to gather a group to help in the search. Make sure you have a leash and collar with you as well as some dog treats to lure a frightened dog.

We hope that you will never be put in this position, but want you to know we as a club will do everything possible to help you find your dog if he/she should ever get lost. Please read the following information on the next page on steps to prevent your dog from getting lost in the first place.

## SAFETY TIPS (OR HOW TO KEEP YOUR HOUND AT HOME)

In the blink of an eye a Greyhound can go from 0 mph to 45 mph and be gone in a flash, below is a list of ways you can help keep your dog safe and prevent him/her from getting lost.

1. **ALWAYS** keep a collar and tags on your Greyhound. Many a lost dog has gotten out via an open gate (Villa's & Cottage homes), front door or lanai screen door without identification
2. **Record your dog's Ear Tattoo numbers** - have them in a place that is easily accessible, your wallet, next to the phone, somewhere you don't need to spend a lot of time searching for. This is a great way to identify your dog if his/her tags or collar are missing. Your dog's ear tattoo numbers are provided to you at adoption - usually on your adoption paperwork. If you want to verify the numbers, place a flashlight behind your dog's ear and flash the light through the ear (the beam going from outside off the ear to the inside) this will clearly illuminate the numbers and make them easier to read.
3. **Close the garage door**, (or your garage screens) When unloading groceries or returning from trips, make sure the garage door is completely closed behind you before opening doors that access your house. Your Greyhound can easily slip past you when you open the door from the garage to the house - this door should be kept closed - your reflexes to close the garage door once your dog slips past you won't be fast enough to prevent escape!
4. **Close the front door** - if you use your front door to bring in groceries or packages, secure your dog in his/her crate, or a secured room with the door closed before bringing in groceries or packages.
5. **When you have company or are expecting company** - plan ahead on where you will secure your dog (his/her crate is perfect and safe). Think about how you will handle people dropping in and going out. If your grandchildren are visiting, it is imperative you stress making sure doors are shut tightly behind them and they understand Greyhounds can't go out without a leash. Most guests and friends are not necessarily Greyhound savvy and may not think twice about leaving a door open while someone is coming up the driveway or walkway.
6. **If you live in a Villa or a Cottage home- SECURE your gate!** Make sure your yard is secured. Your grandchildren, the meter reader, your lawn service, pest service, anyone with access to your yard can accidentally leave the gate unlatched or worse, completely open, and your dog can get out. It is very important you check your gate before you let your dog out! It is also a good idea to go out with your dog to make sure he doesn't try to test the fences especially in a cottage home. If you are expecting people to be in and out of your yard, keep your dog inside until everyone is done and the gate is locked again.
7. **KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES!** This is the cardinal rule for all Greyhound and other dog owners. No matter what breed you have, statistics show that most lost dogs were "off-leash" in an unsecured area when lost. A dog is no match for traffic, the elements and wildlife - PLEASE protect your dog in the easiest way possible, keep him/her leashed - it's for his/her life.