



Hoover's Happy Ending - June, 2009

Hi Debbie,

Thank you so much for all your help and advice during our ordeal with Hoover – it only lasted 4 days but it felt like an eternity!

It seemed like a “perfect storm” of things to go wrong. We had only had him for 2 weeks, and being a young guy (only about 8 months old) who had spent much more of his life on the streets in a bad neighborhood than with nice people in a loving home, Hoover is extremely shy and skittish around people. He was starting to warm up to us when we

both had to leave on business for a couple of days. We left him with a dog/house sitter whom he seemed to like, but on Monday morning he broke out of our fence when she let him out in the back yard to play. She and another friend of ours tried for two days to track him down and call him to come back, and they did catch sight of him occasionally, but he wouldn't let anyone get close to him.

I came home on Wednesday morning from my trip and set about every possible scheme I could think of to get him contained in the yard during one of his frequent trips back to empty his food and water bowls. I was scared that he would roam farther and farther away from home and that he would find other sources of food and water, so I was determined to get him back before that happened. But by Thursday morning, his trips home seemed to be more and more frequent and I had your advice on how best to convince him to come home. Being a first-time dog parent, I was pretty nervous about the whole situation and having an expert's reassurance was really the key to me feeling like I could do this!

By Thursday night, Hoover was hanging out in the backyard and didn't seem to be very inclined to leave, so I spent most of the night (until about 5 in the morning!) tossing him bits of kibble and pieces of Vienna sausages, baiting him closer and closer to the open back door. I finally gave up at about 5:30 in the morning and went to bed, but when I got up at 10 he was still right outside. I took a quick shower and got dressed, and got back to business feeding him his breakfast one piece at a time, and in another hour or so I had lured him far enough into the house to shut the door behind him. He has been safely home ever since, and we are looking for someone to rebuild our rickety old fence so he can play in the yard once again. Apart from a bunch of ticks and a little bit of an upset stomach (I'm sure he found something disgusting to munch on during his travels), he seemed none the worse for wear and weighed in right where he was at his vet appointment a week earlier.

Throughout the week, I did get some calls and one knock on the door from neighbors who saw him out and about after I posted an email “blast” to our homeowner's association. One neighbor remarked to me that it was a great idea to do that – I was

surprised that apparently nobody has done that before, because I have seen “lost pet” flyers up around the neighborhood numerous times. I guess for me, the Internet and the world of email just seemed like the logical place to turn. That might be a good idea for others who have lost pets out – see if you can send an “e-flyer” to your neighborhood association. The more eyeballs you can get your lost pet in front of, the better! Here are a couple of pictures of Hoover – one from his first day with us, and another of him enjoying “his” ottoman after returning home from his big adventure.

Thank you so much for your care and concern and your very expert advice. Here's hoping your website leads to many more happy returns. Best,

Dave