



Kara's Happy Ending - December 2008

Dear LostDogSearch,

Kara the Sheltie was placed in a new home and all was well for a few days until she got spooked by something and bolted. Over 300 fliers were distributed by the new owner, her previous one (Kathy) and her friends. There were a few sighting calls to which the group responded immediately, but to no avail. Then a woman who was visiting in town saw a flier and called because she saw a dog that looked like Kara in a neighboring community. The sighting location

was accessed by a single road leading into a residential area surrounded by water on three sides. The searchers walked around and posted fliers. Food was left in the woods and on the safe, quiet sidewalks facing the ocean and woods. Another call came in from the area, so Kathy went to put out fresh food and walk along the streets. She called to Kara by name and always brought along a dog to lay down familiar canine scent.

Kathy went through many bags of food, but another sighting confirmed Kara was still there. One night Kathy's boyfriend drove her around so she could toss food out the window while calling out to Kara. Hopefully Kara would be lured to the sidewalks and be seen more easily. After an hour or so they turned a corner and there was Kara on the sidewalk....eating dog food. As soon as the Sheltie saw the truck, she ran into a yard along the ocean. Kathy was shocked and could hardly believe her eyes....after six long weeks, she actually saw Kara! And though Kara was running away, she took a moment to turn and look at Kathy.

There was no way to track in the darkness, but they had a humane cage trap (like a Have-A-Heart) in the truck, so they went to McDonalds and bought about 5 hamburgers. Earlier that morning, Kara had been seen in a resident's yard and he gave permission to set up the trap. Pieces of burgers were baited up the sidewalk into the man's yard, and into the trap. It was the beginning of December and very cold that evening, so Kathy covered the trap using her long woolen winter coat. The next morning they got a call that Kara was inside the trap.

Still safely inside the cage, she was rushed to the vet. She had an upper respiratory infection and was extremely thin but has made a full recovery. Though she'd lost a lot of weight and was ill, she didn't have a mark on her and her coat looked great. The new owner was a nice woman who never stopped looking, but following the six-week ordeal, Kara went back home to spend the rest of her life with her favorite human, Kathy, and some canine friends.

Some owners see a slight change in their dog's behavior or a new quirky habit. Kathy says hers now investigates all bags, of any type, including handbags, in search of food. The photo was taken the day Kara returned to her former but now forever home..... with Kathy.