



Puddin's Happy Ending - October 4, 2007

Dear LostDogSearch,
I just wanted to send a huge thank you. Because of your website, I was finally able to get my dog "Puddin" back after 10 days. Puddin is a 9 year old, very pampered Boxer with a heart condition. She ran away because she was mad that I wouldn't let her go "bye-bye" with me. I searched and searched, and had already put out flyers before I saw your site. I changed them after reading your suggestions.

What helped me the most was the parts about thinking like a dog. When I read about the areas and behaviors of a lost dog, you had just described Puddin to a T. She was hanging out at the back side of a new subdivision where there are some sandy trails and woods. I literally tracked her for 10 days. I brushed out prints so I could see new ones, and figured out her patterns and then her new ones (which changed after she was chased by a police officer in the middle of the night). I then followed your directions after finally getting an actual sighting of her.

Puddin was in a field with some "buddy" dogs, one of which was a huge female Rottweiler. I pulled up in my van, opened the door, but didn't get out. Then I talked to her without looking her in the eyes. She began barking at me as if to say, "GO AWAY!" and started trotting off towards the woods but didn't go into them. The man who owns the field gave me a can of Vienna Sausages to befriend his dogs, and they followed me into the field. I never once really looked at Puddin but kept her in my peripheral vision. My arms stayed close to my body as you instructed. Occasionally I would sit down and play with the other dogs and give them nibbles. When I was about 30 yards from Puddin (still not looking at her) I lay down and actually let the other dogs lick me. At that point, Puddin decided to come over and get in on the action. I let her lick at me and also play with the other dogs. She wasn't wearing her collar when she ran away, so I was prepared this whole time with my hand on her collar attached to a leash. I petted her very softly under her neck and gently on top of her head and neck. Then I'd let go and give her and her buddies sausages. Still on the ground, I started to pet her more firmly....still not looking her in the eyes. I was able to get the lead around her neck but remained sitting with her and the other dogs for a while. Slowly I rose to my knees, and finally up on my feet. I took my time getting back to the van and Puddin stayed right with me. When we did get there, she jumped right in like nothing ever happened!!!

I want to thank you again! Puddin means so much to us. I honestly think that if not for your website, she'd still be out there lost...or worse. You are doing a great service and I am eternally grateful.

Sincerely, Susan