

panicked dog it won't eat it. So sometimes the food will work, sometimes it won't. It depends on the dog and what level of panic he is in. Also, some dogs will immediately recognize their owner by their scent but other dogs won't. Kat recently blogged about why you should NEVER call a panicked dog:

<http://katalbrecht.com/blog/?p=424> .

Posters, Cameras, and Traps – One effective method that Missing Pet Partnership suggests is to use the giant, florescent poster boards to help generate leads. When someone calls you and says they believe they saw your dog, you should respond out there and see if you can find your dog. If your dog is not in the immediate area but you find a wooded area or someplace that the dog might return to, you set out a bucket of water and a plate of food (carry these in your car, along with a lead). You can also leave a blanket or towel with your scent (just by rubbing it you will leave your scent on the towel) and/or your dog's scent. If available, you can then use a digital wildlife camera at the feeding station. That way, when you come back the next day and the food is gone you can determine whether the food was eaten by wildlife or by your dog. From there, you can stake the location out or set a baited humane dog trap. MPP founder Kat Albrecht blogged about a case where a panicked dog named Otto was recovered by using a wildlife camera followed by a humane dog trap. You can read that blog at <http://katalbrecht.com/blog/?p=132>.

Magnet Dogs - Finally, if you have a second dog who you're missing dog is familiar and friendly with, take that dog with you but keep him on a long leash. If you come across your panicked lost dog, it is very possible that you can use your friendly happy dog to attract and capture the panicked dog. Missing Pet Partnership has used this technique of a "magnet dog" along with a device called a "Snappy Snare" to capture panicked dogs. You can read about one of these cases where we caught a dog named MoMo with a magnet dog and Snappy Snare at <http://katalbrecht.com/blog/?p=376> and another capture of a dog named Mack <http://katalbrecht.com/blog/?p=936>. We HIGHLY recommend that you read all of these cases to learn more about panicked dog behaviors.

Posters: Getting the word out to citizens and rescuers in the area that your dog or cat is lost is critical. Missing Pet Partnership's web site has great instructions on how to create large, neon REWARD LOST DOG or REWARD LOST CAT posters. The size of the poster and neon color capture the attention of people who may not notice smaller (letter-size) flyers. To see photographs and read instructions on how to create posters that have proven successful in recovering lost pets visit <http://www.missingpetpartnership.org/recovery-posters.php>. In some cases, you might even want to stand on a street corner at a busy intersection holding up large neon posters to capture the attention of people and spread the word that your dog is lost. This technique is called an "Intersection Alert" and you can read about how they work at this page <http://www.missingpetpartnership.org/recovery-intersection.php> and check out Kat Albrecht's blog for the story of Tabu at <http://katalbrecht.com/blog/?p=208>.

The level of assistance and the type of equipment that you have available to you during a disaster or after 4th of July fireworks will ultimately determine how difficult it will be to recover a dog or cat. But probably the most important tool that you will need is a sense of hope and a positive outlook. Physically, your dog or cat is out there somewhere. If you understand how lost pets behave and how to search for them, you'll increase your chances of bringing them back home.

Missing Pet Partnership is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit corporation whose mission is to reunite lost companion animals with their owner/guardians. Our vision is to ultimately develop volunteer lost pet search-and-rescue teams in communities nationwide. If what you read here was beneficial to you, please consider supporting our mission! Tax deductible donations can be made with PayPal (via our website) or made out to "Missing Pet Partnership" and sent to: Missing Pet Partnership, P.O. Box 3085, Federal Way, WA 98063.