

## Catching a Loose Dog

**Reference:** <http://www.snips.8m.com/pages/Greyhound%20capture.htm>

Get a "[squawker](#)" and keep it handy. This noise can often distract the dog and bring him back to the sound before he gets too far.

Never chase the dog. Move away from him, calling him to follow.

Stay calm when you see the dog, and call him in a soft voice. You may want to try using phrases he gets excited about: Want to go for a ride? Want a cookie? Where's your ball?

Sit or kneel. Your dog will probably be frightened, and these postures are less threatening. Open your arms when you call.

Try to face slightly away from the dog. Let him approach you from another direction.

[Take other greyhounds with you when you go out looking. Your dog will be much more likely to come to another greyhound. Contact local greyhound owners to help you search.]

Search within a two-mile radius from where he was lost. He generally won't venture much farther.

**Reference:** <http://www.huskycolors.com/escape.html>

- **RUN** to a vehicle, throw open the door and call out "Let's go bye-bye!"
- **RUN** to the house, throw open the door and call out the dog's name to come in: -> "Odin in!"
- **RUN** quickly to the fridge and pull out a piece of meat. **RUN** after your Siberian waving the meat in the air hoping he/she gets a whiff of it before catching one of the neighbor's cats/rabbits/chicken/sheep.
- **RUN** away from the dog and yell to the dog to play one of your favorite games: -> "Reba tag!"
- **RUN** to where the dog can see you. Drop or fall to the ground and cry & sob LOUDLY. This will hopefully bring the dog right up to you to see what is going on. Grab him immediately. (This one is usually foolproof but save it for a real emergency situation as it usually only works once. Siberians catch on real fast, and you aren't going to fool them with this a second time.)

**Reference:** <http://www.vizsladogs.com/ARTICLES/runaway.htm>

Here are some suggestions for the dog that gets away or just takes off and refuses to acknowledge you. These are less likely to work on a dog that has been traumatized and is in flight and panic mode.

Keep up with your dog so you know where they are, but try not to make it a chase game. Be aware if you run after your dog they will keep going. If you get close you may have only one chance to grab and if your grab fails then your dog will just prance further away and you probably won't get a second chance.

Here are some suggestions for getting that dog back.

- 1) When it first happens resist the urge to do a recall in the panic voice that we would all feel in that situation. Try the sweet here -is -your -cookie- voice. Crouch down so you don't look intimidating. You can use every bribe in the book in this emergency situation. Pretend you have a cookie on you- Put your hand in your pocket and pretend to be getting food. **Use your buzz words-** dinnertime, play ball anything that will bring the dog back to you. **BUT DON'T PANIC.**
- 2) If the recall command has failed and you have tried every voice and volume in your repertoire stop. It isn't working. Be careful that that angry voice isn't coming out too often. It rarely works on a loose dog. Try whispering or singing in an unusual voice your dog has never heard.
- 3) Try to get his attention and make a game where your dog chases YOU. Run away from your dog with a silly loud noise thrashing your hand. They will often join in the chase. When they get close to you just fall down and let yourself be caught. Of course at that point you can catch your dog. If you have a leash get it on him quickly.
- 4) If your dog is heading for a dangerous area try to get something to throw for a game of catch and steer him away from danger. A rock, a bunched up leash, gloves anything to re-route your dogs path. This doesn't necessarily get your dog back to you it is just to keep him from immediate danger.
- 5) Throw something interesting on the ground for your dog to investigate. A Box or a full plastic bag can sometimes cause a curious dog to come in close to investigate. If your dog is closer to you and absorbed in its investigation you have a better chance of catching him.
- 6) Try crouching down or lying down and look at some invisible goodie in the grass. Poke at it and talk to this thing in the grass. Many curious dogs will come see what is interesting. No eye contact. Resist the urge to make a lunge. Reach out slowly and grab the collar. If there is no collar I'm afraid you will need to grab coat and **HANG ON.** This is an emergency remember. To get your dog back home you may need to carry him. A belt can make an emergency leash.
- 7) If your dog loves to ride in a car, open a car door and let your dog run and jump in.
- 8) If your dog is doing a run towards another dog for a game of play, try to get the other owner to call their dog to them and catch your pup when near.
- 9) If there is a reliable dog nearby, that is a friendly dog with an absolute recall you can let that dog go and then call it back. Chances are pretty good that your pack animal will follow the other dog. This is risky if the other dog decides to take off too- But, I have seen it work with a trained dog that brought back a lost dog that had gone feral.
- 10) If there is a blanket near by it can be thrown over a dog if the situation warrants it. It has to be big enough so that the dog is not able to quickly wiggle out. Coats and jackets don't work.
- 11) And finally resist the urge to yell at the dog when you finally catch him. Consider yourself fortunate that you got your baby back and try to prevent another occurrence. Protect your dog from himself.