

# Lost or Missing Dog Policy:

## Preventative Measures:

Prior to walks, ensure all dogs are properly secured with appropriate leashes, harnesses, or restraints.

Use double leashes or secure attachment points to minimise the risk of accidental escapes.

Conduct a thorough check of equipment to ensure it is in good condition before each walk.

## Immediate Response:

If a dog runs off or goes missing during a walk, remain calm and assess the situation quickly.

Notify all staff members immediately to assist in the search efforts.

If possible, enlist the help of nearby pedestrians or residents to aid in the search.

## Communication with the Owner:

Contact the dog's owner immediately to inform them of the situation.

Provide details about the location where the dog was last seen and any pertinent information about the circumstances surrounding the disappearance.

## Search Protocol:

Conduct a systematic search of the area where the dog was last seen, starting from the point of escape and expanding outward.

Use treats, toys, or the dog's favourite items to attract their attention and encourage them to return.

Call out the dog's name in a calm and reassuring tone to signal their presence.

## Contacting Authorities:

If the dog is not found within a reasonable timeframe, contact local animal control, shelters, and veterinary clinics to report the missing dog.

Provide a detailed description of the dog, including breed, size, colour, distinctive markings, and any identifying tags or microchip information.

## Utilising Technology:

Utilize GPS tracking devices or apps installed on the dog's collar to aid in locating the missing dog.

Monitor social media platforms and online community groups for any reports of sightings or information about the missing dog.

## Maintaining Communication with Owner:

Keep the dog's owner informed of all developments and efforts made to locate the missing dog.

Provide regular updates on the search progress and any potential sightings or leads.

### **Post-Search Procedures:**

If the dog is found safe and returned to the owner, conduct a thorough debriefing with staff members to identify any lessons learned and areas for improvement in preventing similar incidents in the future.

Review and update protocols as necessary to enhance safety measures and minimise the risk of dogs running off during walks.

### **Compassion and Support:**

Offer emotional support and reassurance to the dog's owner during the search process. Demonstrate empathy and understanding while working collaboratively to reunite the missing dog with their owner as quickly and safely as possible.

Plenty Paws