Beyond the Scanner: Advanced Return to Home in the Field

Nick Walton

Manager of National Shelter Support

Nickw@BestFriends.org

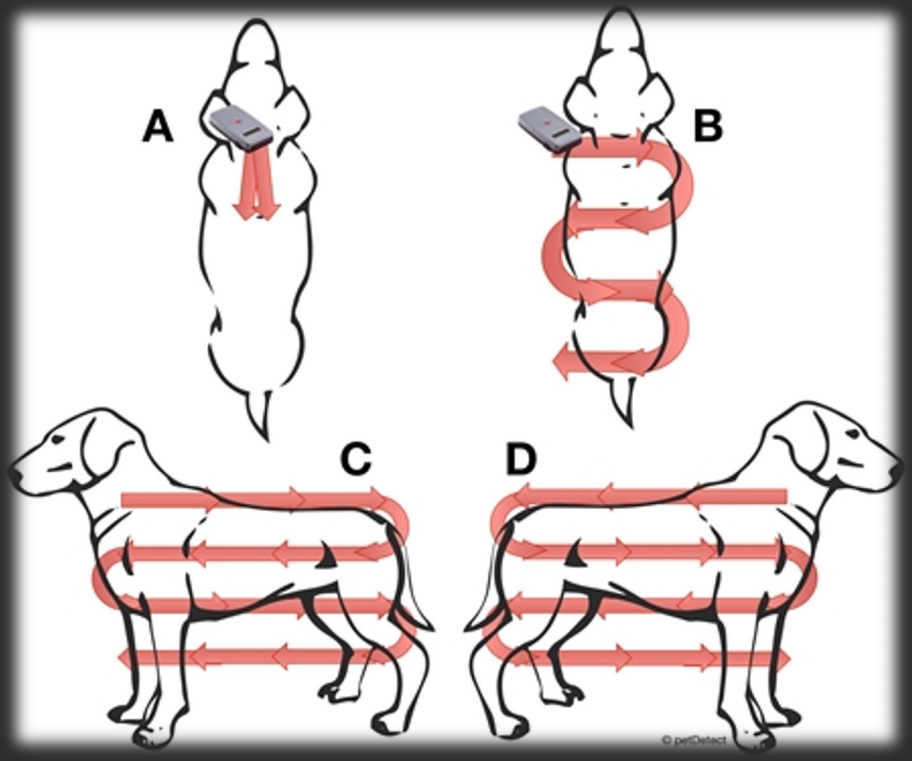
VE PARI
GEORGIA

Key takeaways

- The dog lives somewhere
- Officers have an obligation to reduce shelter intake
- Thinking outside the box
- Be part of the solution

So you've caught the dog, now what?

Universal Microchip Scanners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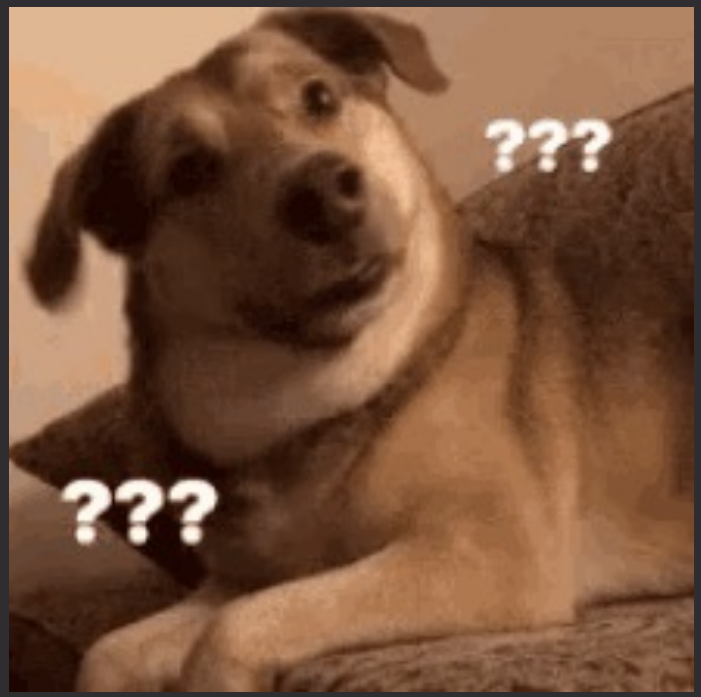


No tags

No microchip

What's next?

Is our only option to impound?

Who says NO?

- Albuquerque NM
- Pima County AZ
- Maricopa County AZ
- Dallas TX
- Ft Worth TX
- Edinberg TX
- Salt Lake City UT
- Washoe County NV
- Orange County FL
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg NC
- Fulton County GA
- Shreveport LA
- McKamey TN
- Abilene TX
- Montgomery AL
- St. Tammany LA
- San Bernardino CA
- Kauai HI
- Many, many more!

Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC

We check chips, but also do "knock & talks" with homes/businesses in the areas asking if they recognize the animal. If they do we will try to take them home before bringing them in, if no one is there we leave a letter.

Dr. Josh Fisher, Director CMACC

"…They can use this technology all they want but, in my opinion, nothing beats just good old fashion detective type work, asking people on the street and knocking on doors.

It goes back to empowering the officers to do it and stressing "quality over quantity" of calls run. You can run a hundred calls and end up filling your shelter but how is that helping the community and your shelter…"

Timothy Poorman, Chief Animal Control Officer, Fulton County GA

So, how do they do it?

- Search area for owners
- Talk to people
- Look for lost pet signs
- Post found signs
- Door hangers
- Social media
- Just follow them home

Wait! What?
Just follow them home?!?!?!?

Look, Listen and Talk

- Neighbors out and about
- People calling out
  - Roll down your windows!
- Kids
- Postal carriers
- Utility workers in the area
- Visible evidence of a dog's yard but no dog observed
- Door-to-door

Bonus: All of this helps improve the image and perception of who you are and what you really do!

Call it in

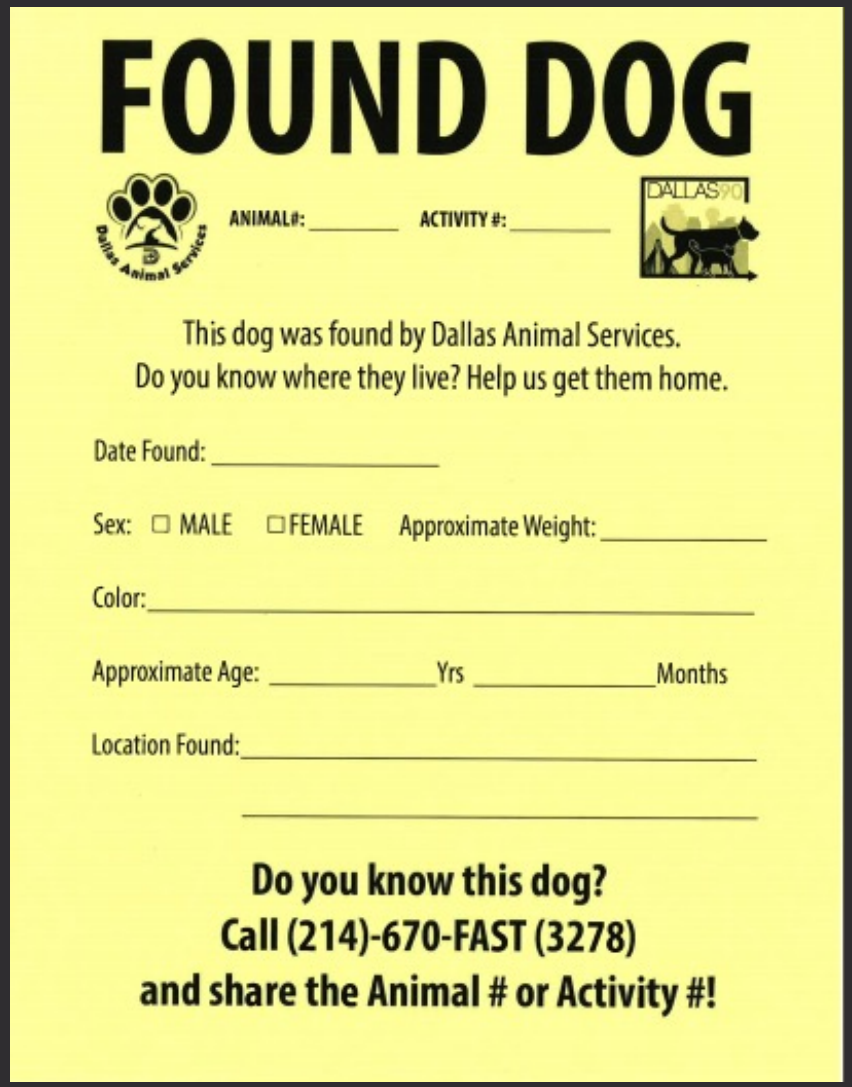
- Any recent lost reports filed?
- Any prior calls in the area?
- File Found report yourself
- Dispatch/shelter staff assist in searching online

When staffing allows, we have a floating ASO pick the dog up from the impounding officer to canvass the neighborhoods...

-Ed Jamison, Former Director Dallas Animal Services

We also hang the attached notice on the 2 closest poles from where the dog is found (We're working on printers for in the trucks so we can have a picture of the dog on the flyer).

Ed Jamison, Former Director Dallas Animal Services



FOUND DOG

ANIMAL#: _____ ACTIVITY #: _____

This dog was found by Dallas Animal Services.
Do you know where they live? Help us get them home.

Date Found: _____

Sex: ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE Approximate Weight: _____

Color: _____

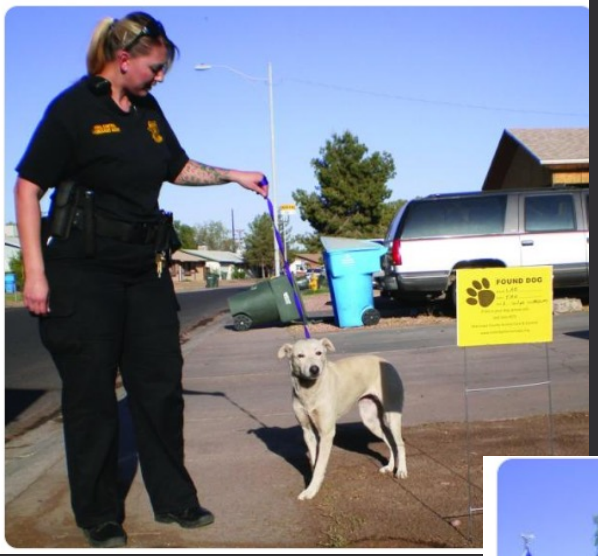
Approximate Age: _____ Yrs _____ Months

Location Found: _____

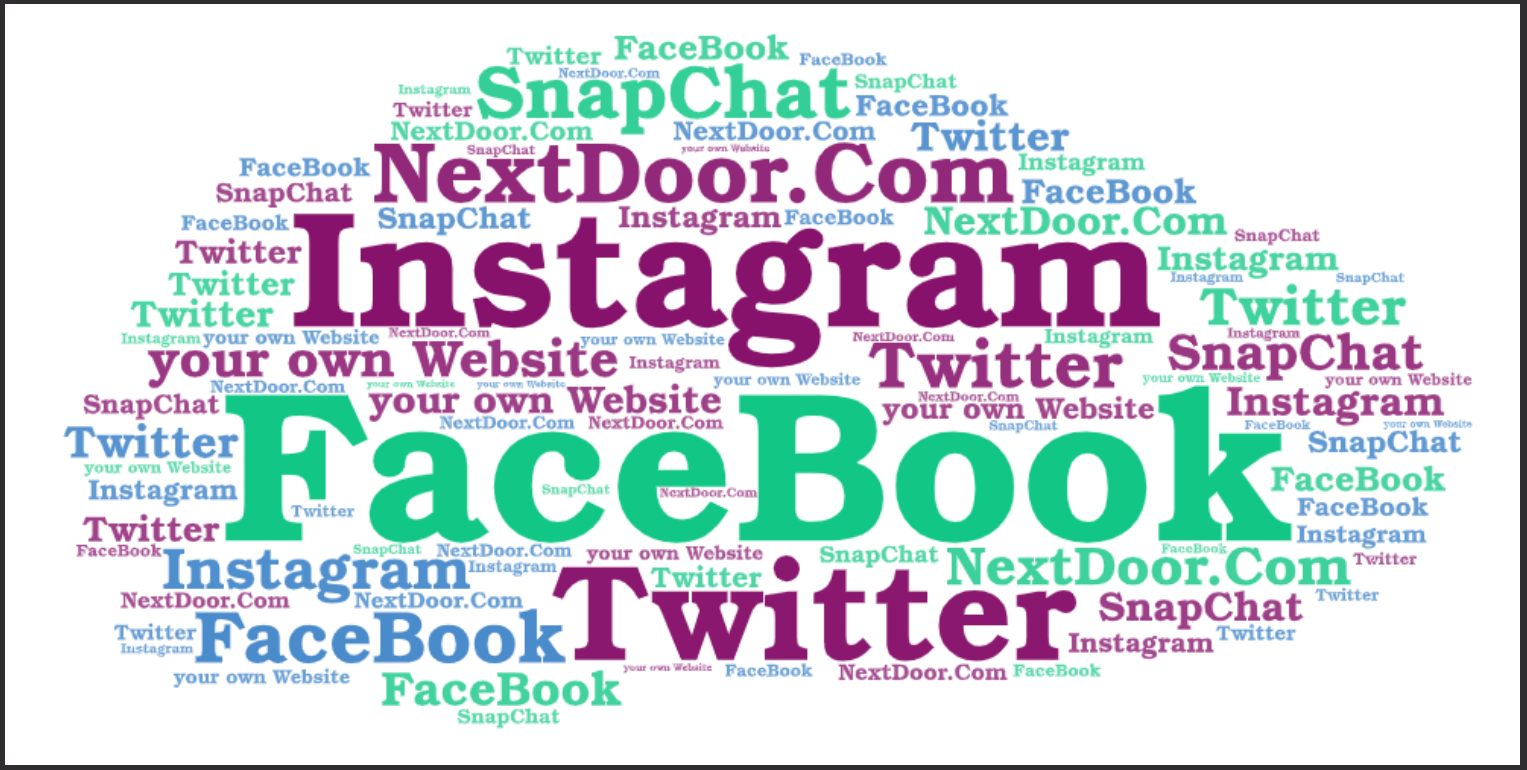
_____

Do you know this dog?
Call (214)-670-FAST (3278)
and share the Animal # or Activity #!

Yellow signs help! MCACC Animal Control Officers continue to find strays; hopefully her owner will come forward.



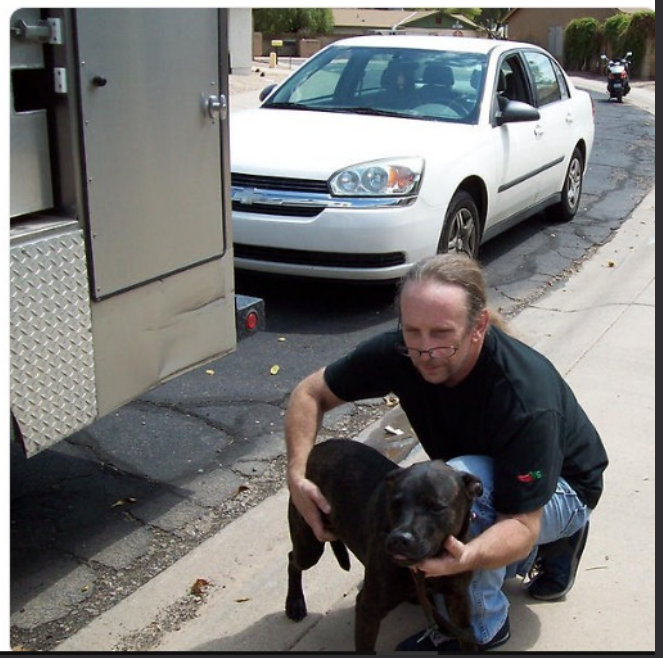
Online Opportunities



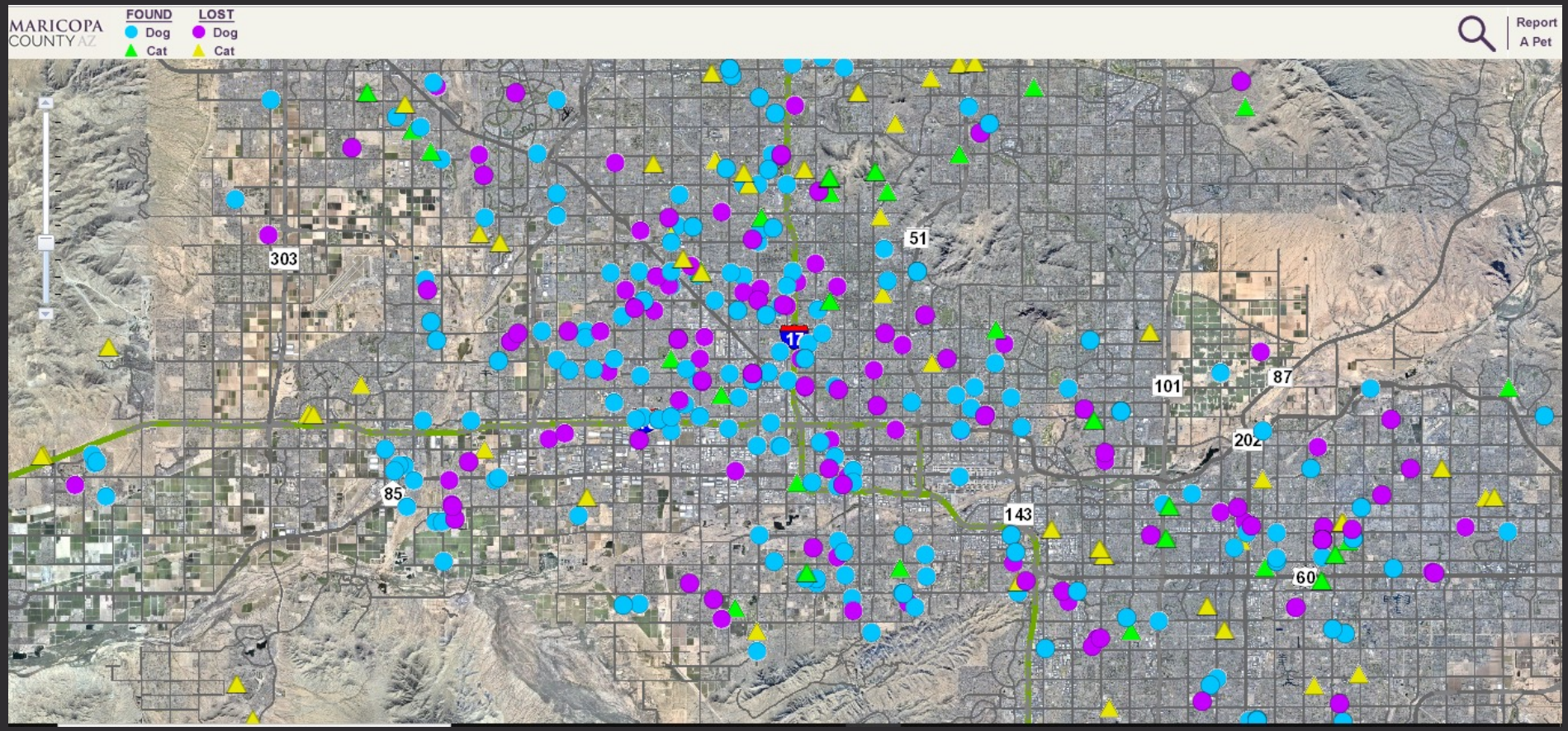
Social Media

- Create an online account for yourself as an officer in the community and use that to post
- Facebook lost pet page for your community
- Nextdoor.com – sign up!
- Create municipal lost pet page using GIS
- *Petco Love Lost
- *Pethealth – largest microchip registration
- *Petlink “in your pocket” can save valuable time

RTO! MCACC Ofc Eggers returned Nuzzles back to his owner within minutes of finding the dog lost in the neighborhood.



Maricopa County AZ Stray Animal Map Tool



Officer Discretion

- **Know your laws!**
- **Impound**
  - **Define impound**
- **F-RTO**
- **Cite**
  - **Fix it tickets**
- **Warning**

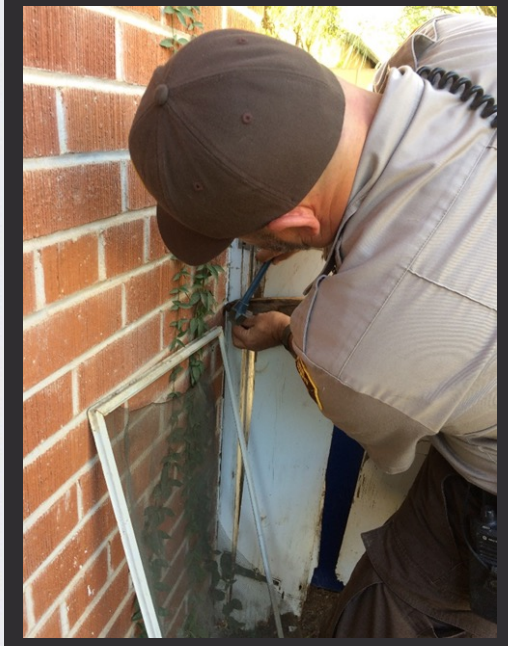
RTO in the field

- Documents to sign
- Informational materials
- Identify how the dog got out and work with owner to prevent it from happening again
- Warning notice/citation
- Fix it ticket – stipulations in writing
- Supplies such as leashes and collars
- Track it! Gives a true representation of what's going in the community
- Solve the problem!

Caddo Parish Animal Services & Mosquito Control
October 4 ·

We performed our first in field fence repair today! We are working harder to reunite animals with their owners so they do not have to come into the Shelter, this decreases stress for the animals and their worried owners. With yesterday's crazy weather we understand that sometimes a gap can open in a fenced-in yard and we are happy to patch that fence so you and your pet can be reunited immediately.

409 86 Comments 177 Shares



Resources found at:
https://network.bestfriends.org/animal-control

- Best Friends Humane Animal Control Manual
- Best Friends Operational Playbook on how to start a Field RTO program
- Lots more!

nickw@bestfriends.org