

Winter/Holiday 2014

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**Dr. Steve Shoop:
From Surgeon to
High Flying Chauffer**

Happy & Safe Dogs Make
for Happy Howl-a-days!

★ **Holiday Gift Guide** ★
New! Ask a Neurovet

"Mack" is seeking his forever
home through Black Dogs &
Company Rescue (details on Page 45)



Happy and Safe Dogs Make for Happy Howl-a-days!

By Anne Wills

This holiday season, take a few precautions to keep your pets safe. Search dogs who are sent outside to search for missing and lost dogs would love to stay inside and be toasty warm too! The holiday season is the worst time of year for pet loss and theft. Eight out of ten lost dog cases from November through March are due to winter-specific factors. Here are a few simple tips:

Holiday Season Theft

Starting in November, Dogs Finding Dogs, a dog-tracking non-profit organization that tracks and finds lost pets, has an increase of 80 percent regarding missing dog cases being attributed to pet theft. Dogs Finding Dogs is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization of highly-trained handlers and dogs that can track and find a lost pet. When we take on a missing pet case, we stay with you until your pet is found. We never turn down a plea for help! Our goal is to reunite you with your pet as soon as possible. We will advise you on what steps to take and when.

Dogs Finding Dogs offers more than just tracking teams. We can be instrumental in reuniting you with your pet using a variety of methods. We have assisted more than 4000 pet owners in finding their lost pets since our inception in 2008.

Whether it's the need to generate money for holiday presents or to give a gift of a cute dog, pet owners have to be extra vigilant in watching their pets. During the holiday season in 2013, Dogs Finding Dogs had 127 stolen dogs, of which 80 percent were reunited with their owners.

The piling up of snow around the fences gives your pet an extra step up to jump over. Also, the weight of the snow and ice against the gates and fences causes them to bend, creating open spaces that your dog will try to squeeze through.

Do not let your pet outside unattended at any time. Watch for strange cars in the neighborhood, or people who are walking in front of your home. These pet thieves are just waiting for an opportunity. When your pet goes outside, inspect your yard for food. The thieves will feed your pet to make it friendly to a stranger. Make sure all gates are padlocked.

Beware of Holiday Festivities

When entertaining, confine your pet to a specific area. Inform each person who enters your home to always check their feet before opening an outside door. Dogs can get overly excited or stressed with visitors. This can cause them to want to run out of the doors of a home.

Carrying Packages To and From Cars

Make several small trips when carrying packages in or out of the house. Make sure that you have full view of your doorways. Put your pet in a confined area.

News Year Eve Fireworks

Every year on New Years Eve, there are fireworks. Before you let your dog outside, double check that your gates are firmly closed. Block up all holes around the fence line. If you have anything smaller than a 6-foot fence, stay outside with your dog. One pop of a firework can send them over the fence!

Winter Storms

Winter storms create horrible opportunities for your pet to get loose. Blowing wind can cause front doors and gates to fly open, so make sure you have them securely locked. The piling up of snow around the fences gives your pet an extra step up to jump over. Also, the weight of the snow and ice against the gates and fences causes them to bend, creating open spaces that your dog will try to squeeze through.

For a safe and joyous holiday season, take these few simple precautions for the safety of your pet. Rover wants to enjoy them with you too! Our search dogs would love to kick back in front of the fireplace with a nice bone as well. It's cold outside for the missing dogs and the search dogs.

Dogs Finding Dogs wants to wish each and every family a wonderful Howl-a-Day season!

Dogs on our team have helped aid the police in tracking persons in connection with a crime. They also have successfully tracked lost pets with full recovery of the animal. Some of our dogs have been honored by the Maryland State Governor with Governors Citations. See Our Dogs' Profiles on our Meet Our Teams page and visit our In The News page for recent press coverage and events. The faster you call us, the better the chance of recovering your pet. You will need to have a favorite toy, blanket or brush that we can use to pre-scent our dogs to ensure that we are tracking the correct scent path. 🐾

The Dogs Finding Dogs Rescue Team. Photo Courtesy Anne Wills

