

[Freekibble](#) [How to apply for a donation](#)

Welcome Kibbler!

Thanks for Donating Halo to Animal Shelters



+1

Like Send 1357 likes. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

"Pet Detective" Dogs Help Track Down Lost Pets

By Caroline Golon

Dogs can be trained to track and find many things, from people to drugs to explosives and more. But organizations across the country are training dogs to perform another type of service - to help find missing pets!

One such organization is Dogs Finding Dogs, a Baltimore, Md.-based non-profit. Founder Anne Willis says that, in addition to dogs, the group has tracked cats, horses, ferrets, hamsters lost in houses, iguanas and more.

"Just last week I took on a tortoise case!" Willis laughs. "You'd be surprised how far they can get!" Willis and her Shepherd-Lab mix, Heidi, found the tortoise safe and sound a few blocks away from his house, lounging under a bush.

Since it was founded in 2008, the organization has located more than 2,000 missing pets and counseled numerous distraught owners by phone.

Dogs Finding Dogs has 11 tracking dogs on their team, including German Shepherds, Bloodhounds and Labs.

Before joining the team, the dogs – and their owners - are rigorously trained with a national task police dog association. They maintain their skills with intensive weekly sessions. "And there's lots of on the job training, too," says Willis.

When assigned a case, the dogs are given an item with the scent of the missing pet and then let loose to follow the trail, their owner/handler by their side.

Willis says it takes a special kind of dog and a special kind of person to do this job. "It's a very emotional business. You need compassion but be able to take control of the situation."

With a 94% success rate, Willis says she can't imagine doing anything else. "There is no better feeling than reuniting someone with their pet. It just brings tears to your eyes."



Ace pet-detective, Heidi
Photo: courtesy of Anne Willis!

[click image to enlarge](#)

June Special

20% off all orders
PLUS free shipping
(\$50 min.)



[Shop Now](#)

Expires June 30, 2012

Free Email Newsletter & Over \$10 Worth of Coupons

Sign up for exclusive offers & pet care information.



Store Locator Where to buy

Available at Whole Foods Market, Petco and thousands of natural foods and pet specialty stores. Because Halo sells out quickly, please call ahead to make sure.

ZIP/Postal Code

Distance



Help spread the word

SHARE