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Towson couple pulls out stops in search for missing dog



Keeva has been missing from her West Towson home since late May. (Submitted) Submitted)



By Rachael Pacella - Contact Reporter Towson Times

West Towson couple still searching for dog, who went missing May 26.

For the past month, Bridget Quinn Stickline and her husband, Scott, of Towson, have spared little expense or time searching for their lost dog, Keeva.

In addition to hiring a nonprofit that uses tracking dogs to find missing animals to aid in the search, the couple has purchased an infrared trail camera in the hope of catching a nighttime photo of Keeva, has posted the dog's photo on social media sites, and has taken out a quarter-page advertisement in the June 29 issue of the Towson Times asking for the community's assistance under the heading, "Beloved Dog Lost."

But Keeva, a female German Shepherd mix, of medium size, with golden hair, which went missing May 26 after it forced its way through a crack in a fence at the Sticklines' West Towson home, has not come home.

Keeva likely has taken on more of the mindset of a wild animal, making her skittish around humans, Anne Wills, the executive director of the Catonsville-based nonprofit, Dogs Finding Dogs, said she believes. People who have spotted Keeva have said that the dog ran from them, said Wills, who is aiding in the search for Keeva, adding that when dogs are lost, their natural, less domesticated instincts kick in.

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The couple has received calls from people who claim to have seen Keeva, Quinn Stickline said, adding that every time her phone rings she hopes it's a person saying Keeva is safe in the back seat of a car.

"That's the call I'm really waiting for," she said.

On the night Keeva first went missing, Quinn Stickline looked for Keeva in familiar neighborhood spots. When she went to bed at around midnight without finding the dog, she thought that Keeva would return in the morning, she said.

The couple began to receive reports from people who said they had seen Keeva near a wooded property in Lutherville-Timonium that is north of Seminary Road, in the area of Thornton Road. They scattered dog treats and pieces of old tee-shirts that smell like Scott Stickline on the ground in the area in the hope that Keeva would return home.

The couple now believe that Keeva might have moved even farther north, thanks to additional sightings of the dog reported via social media, Quinn Stickline said Thursday.

Dogs Finding Dogs has been putting food out for Keeva and, once a pattern is established, hope to set a cage trap for the dog in order to catch it, Willis said.

The Sticklines are asking anyone who sees Keeva not to chase the dog, but rather to take a photo and then contact Quinn Stickline at 410-215-5348.

Quinn Stickline adopted Keeva as a puppy about two-and-a-half years ago, she said. The defect in the fence has existed since Keeva moved in — but for an unknown reason, Keeva decided to push her way through the barrier and run away May 26.

"She was never a dog that would run away," Quinn Stickline said. "We're not entirely sure what happened."

Quinn Stickline runs a children's clothing store, while her husband works for Baltimore County in information technology. The couple have lived in West Towson for 14 years.

One positive that's come of the situation is the support the couple has received from the community, Quinn Stickline said.

"There's probably 100 people driving around with dog treats in their car looking for Keeva," she said.

In addition to calls about sightings, Quinn Stickline said she has gotten calls from people who simply tell her to keep looking and not to give up.

"Some people just call me and say stick to your guns," she said. "We appreciate those notes."