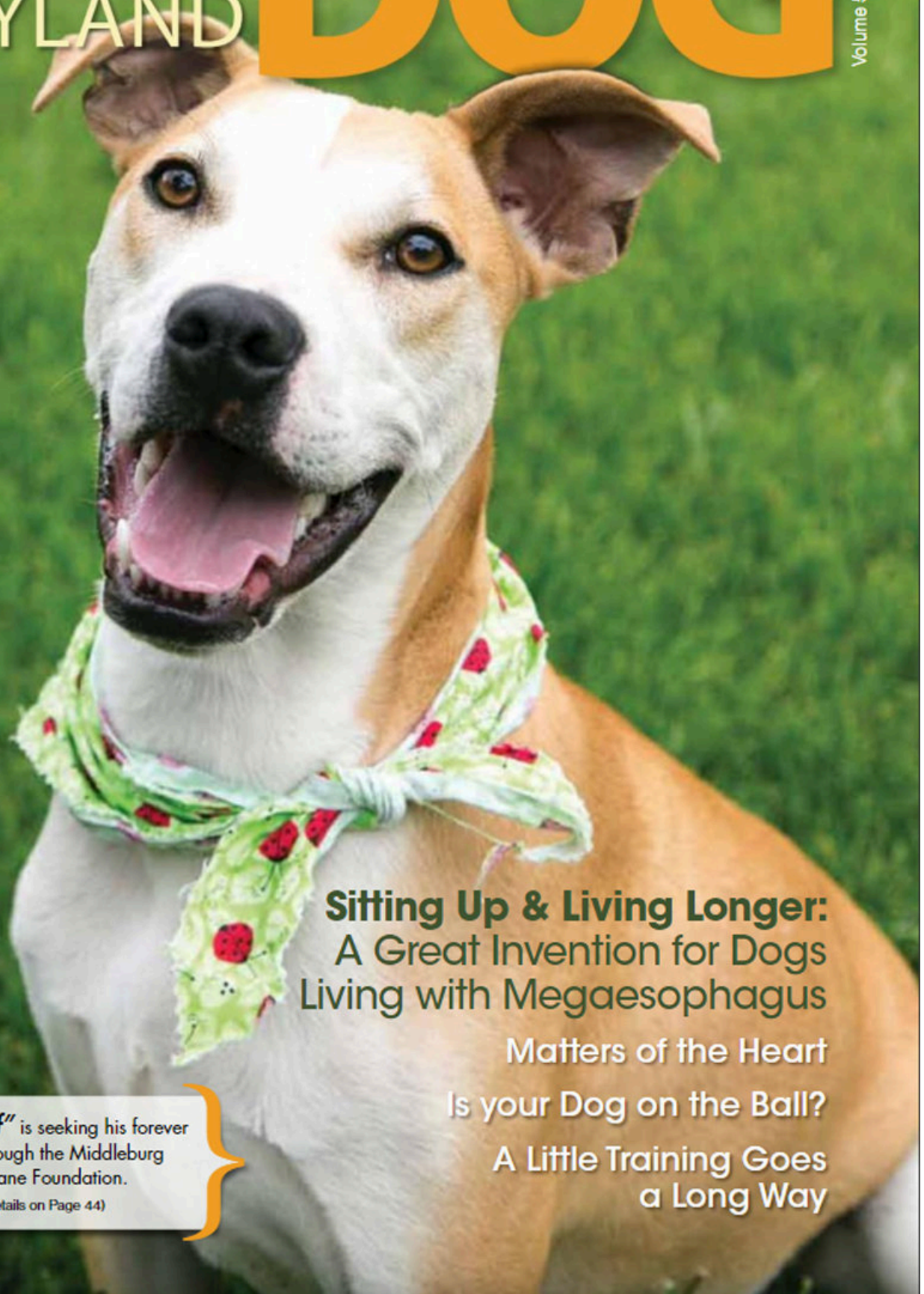


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The
**VIRGINIA
MARYLAND**

DOG

Volume 5 • Issue 2



Sitting Up & Living Longer:
A Great Invention for Dogs
Living with Megaesophagus

Matters of the Heart

Is your Dog on the Ball?

A Little Training Goes
a Long Way

"Khristoff" is seeking his forever
home through the Middleburg
Humane Foundation.

(details on Page 44)



Fido is Running Loose and Won't Come When Called! Why?

A dog has the natural instinct to want to roam freely. They jump fences, dig holes, and some are crafty enough to flip the gate latch. Pet owners are constantly trying to keep their dogs contained. When they finally break loose, why does their behavior seem so different?

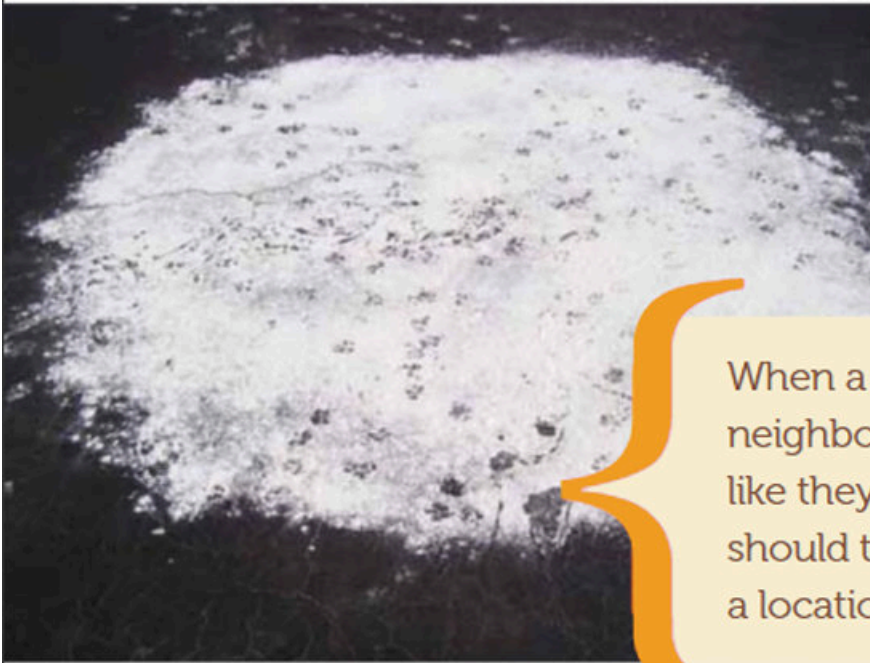
By Anne Willis

Photos courtesy Anne Willis

Remember that your dog is an animal. Pet owners tend to humanize dogs. Canines behave like humans in many ways. They show happiness, sadness, and are easily taught new tasks. But when dogs are on their own, they become more fox-like. Dogs, who are descended from wolves, will act like wolves or foxes when they are lost.

When a dog is running around the neighborhood, a pet owner should think like they are trying to catch a fox. What should the pet owner do to lure a fox to a location where it can be caught?

There are two major strategies pet owners can use to get their dog back.



Footprints of a Lost Dog.

When a dog is running around the neighborhood, a pet owner should think like they are trying to catch a fox. What should the pet owner do to lure a fox to a location where it can be caught?

First, the pet owner should set up trails made from items that smell like them, and then place those items where the dog is being seen. Pet owners should take old bath towels and rub them on their bodies. Cut them into strips. Then, drop these strips on the trail every five feet. This should get the dog to look for its owner in a certain area.

Second, set up feeding stations along the scented trails. Use a piece of cardboard to establish a flat surface. Take flour and make a solid, filled-in area on the cardboard that is large enough to have wet food in the middle and an area large enough where your dog can step in the flour and leave footprints. The pet owner will then start to see when the dog comes to the cardboard to eat.

Dogs travel more often at night and in the early morning. This is a prime time to watch for them. Resist the urge to move towards the dog. Do not yell his name or squeak a toy. This will only scare him off. Drop to the ground immediately to appear submissive. Do not make direct eye contact. This is a challenge to a dog. Instead, toss some treats, and call his name gently. Your dog has to smell you

to understand who you are. The pet owner may look and sound like mom or dad, but until a dog can smell a person, he will not come to you. Ninety-five percent of all lost dogs will run from their owners. This is the hardest behavior to understand. Dog rescuers often hear pet owners say that their dogs know them and will come to them, but that is not always the case.

When pet owners understand that a dog on the loose is in a survival mode, that will help the owner be more successful with getting the dog back. 🐾

For more information:

Anne Wills

Dogs Finding Dogs

410.908.6374

www.dogsfindingdogs.com