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The
**VIRGINIA
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DOG

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The Air That We Breathe

Sit, Sit, Sit! A Quick Solution
to a Common Problem

Dogs & Congenital Disease

"Midge" is seeking a forever home.
She is available for adoption through
the Middleburg Humane Foundation.

(details on Page 46)

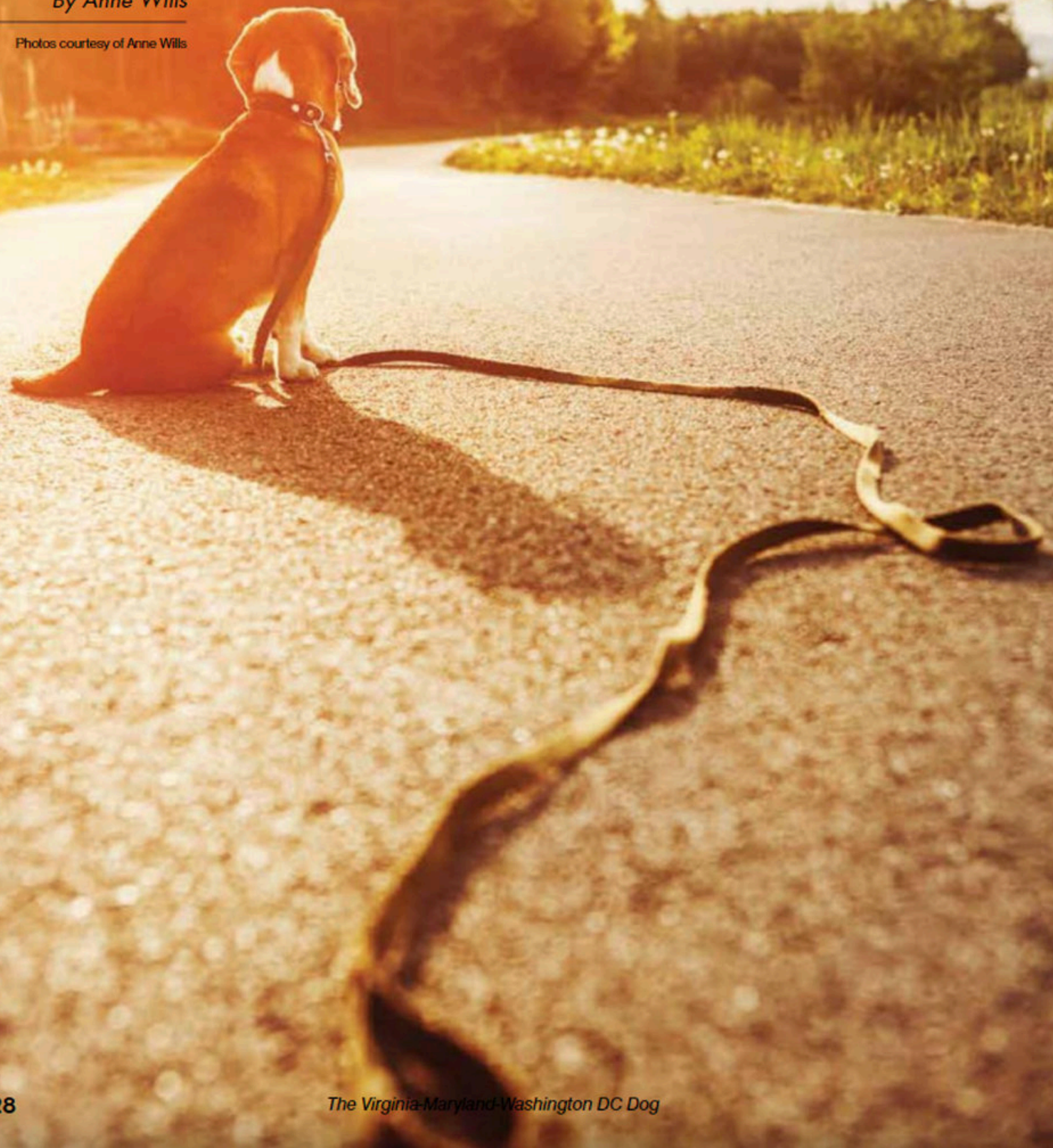
(rounding up rover

The Dog Trap:

What To Do, And What Not To Do

By Anne Wills

Photos courtesy of Anne Wills



A loose dog will not respond to its owner as it would if still at home safe and sound. Dogs will immediately go into flight mode, a state of mind of self-preservation, identical to a wild fox. Fifty percent of lost dogs have to be lured to eat at a specific location, repeatedly, and then trapped.

It is suggested that you first set up feeding stations where your dog is being seen. This should be done on a flat surface. Put cardboard down, on flat dirt if possible. Next, spread a thick, half-inch layer of flour to form a solid filled in circle. This circle of flour should be large enough so when wet food with a strong smell is placed in the middle of the circle, the dog cannot reach it without stepping in the flour and leaving footprints.

If the feeding stations are in the same general area, connect them by leaving a trail of scent strips of the owner. Sheets that have been ripped into small pieces works well. A water and cat food solution can lead dogs to the area where they can be caught.

Once it is observed that the dog is repeatedly going to the feeding station, a trap can be set up, in place of the feeding station. Traps can often be obtained from local animal control offices.

The trap should be large, and the bigger, the better. A dog needs a large space to walk into. The trap should not be confining. A mistake that some officials make is to use a smaller raccoon and cat trap for a little dog. That method does not work.

A trap should have a flyer attached to it, and the trap should be chained to a tree to guard against theft. The trap should be close to the feeding station.

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Example Feeding Station

Area should be big enough that when you put cat food in the middle, your pet cannot reach over it without leaving footprints, 1 5lb bag of flour per station, thick and you should see your hand when you put it in the flour. Food goes in the middle.



Wet food with a strong smell is suggested as the bait in a trap. Rotisserie-style chicken can be popular with dogs. Put the food directly on the bottom of the trap, as far back as possible, behind the trip plate.

Use natural camouflage—use bush, tree branches, leaves and shrubs. Place the trap against a shed. A goal is to make the trap blend with its surroundings. Using tree branches and leaves on the top and sides of the trap, and inside the bottom of the trap, makes the device friendly to dogs. Do not cover the trap with a tarp, plastic or blankets—if these items are blown about by the wind, that can scare dogs.

Wet food with a strong smell is suggested as the bait in a trap. Rotisserie-style chicken can be popular with dogs. Put the food directly on the bottom of the trap, as far back as possible, behind the trip plate. Do not use a bowl or plate. The dog needs to work for the food, to trigger the trap. When a bowl or plate is used, that hampers the process. Some dogs are smart enough to pick up the bowl and back out of the trap. Use marshmallows on the ground, outside of the trap, to re-direct raccoons from entering the trap.

The process to lure a dog into a trap can be tricky. Sprinkle some food along the bottom of the trap, leading to the grass at the opening of the trap. In front of the trap, sprinkle a few pieces on the ground. This allows a dog to eat in front of the trap, and then take baby steps inside the trap.

Pet owners can put small items that smell like the owner in the trap, such as a sock, shirt or one of the

dog's toys. Familiar smells provide comfort for the dog. Also, lay scent trails from the trap, to show the dog where the trap is located.

Pet owners need to be patient and diligent. Food must be replaced daily. The trap should be checked several times each day to see if it is closed or open. Check the trap from a distance. Do not set the trap in direct sunlight. The best time to catch a dog is at night. They lay low during the day and come out at dusk.

Pet owners should not rely completely on deer cameras—these cameras do not always trigger when they should.

In some cases, traps have been out for weeks in missing dog cases. Other cases take only a few days. Pet owners should be consistent, and they should not give up. 🐾

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