

CARING FOR YOUR FOUND DOG



First Aid and Veterinary Care



Make a veterinary appointment for a full exam and bloodwork. Your dog could be injured or sick in ways that are not readily apparent.



IMPORTANT! Consult a veterinarian ASAP to determine if your dog is at risk for refeeding syndrome, which can be FATAL. If so, follow their instructions on what to feed and how often. If you feed before talking to a vet, only give small amounts of bland food such as boiled chicken and rice (no dry dog food).



Scan for more about refeeding syndrome



Thoroughly check for injuries. Your dog could have a festering wound that needs immediate medical attention.



Carefully monitor your dog for symptoms of illness. If your dog becomes ill, seek immediate medical attention.



Thoroughly check for ticks and remove any that are found. Scan the QR code to the right for tick removal instructions.



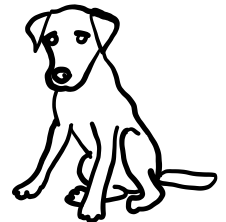
Scan for tick removal instructions



Trauma Recovery

Being lost and fighting for survival is a **TRAUMATIC** experience for dogs. Your dog needs to **DECOMPRESS** from this ordeal and **RESET** to their normal self. Give your dog the time and space to recover by following the decompression plan below.

When this decompression plan is used, most dogs recover within about three days. Others may take longer. Be patient and calm. Let your dog go at their own pace.



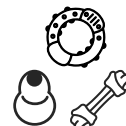
Create a **SAFE SPACE** for your dog to go when they feel overwhelmed. This can be a crate or a den-like space created by draping a blanket over a table.



Let your dog **REST** as much as they want. Do not force interaction or make them do things they don't want to, including interacting with other dogs in the household.



Your dog may be uncomfortable eating during the day. Make food available so they can eat when ready. Always have fresh water available.



Provide items for your dog to chew on to relieve anxiety, such as dog bones or kongs filled with peanut butter. Supervise your dog while they have these items.



Only go outside to potty. Keep your dog on leash, even in a fenced yard. Always use a properly fitted martingale collar.



During and after decompression, you may notice changes in your dog. For most dogs, these changes are temporary, but for some they are lasting.



For more essential safety precautions and information on what to do if your dog becomes lost, visit gatekeeperk9rescue.org.

