

Written by Katherine E. Gibson of A Pathway to Hope.

I have LOTS of lost dog search experience and YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB!  
PACE YOURSELF- The dog is pacing him/ herself.

WHEN YOU SPOT THE DOG- she has already seen you-long before you see her-  
JUST STOP. Immediately Turn Your Back.  
Drop Some Stinky Meat From Your Hand At Your Side-  
DO NOT TOSS IT TOWARD HER- The Arm Motion Is Threatening.  
BABY STEP SEVERAL YARDS AWAY-  
Do Not Look Back. Eye Contact EVEN At A Distance Is Still A Threat.

NOW~ LIE DOWN! NO TALKING! - Stretch out one arm- palm up with stinky meat.  
NO TALK/ NO EYE CONTACT. DONT MOVE AT ALL/ DONT TWITCH EVEN A FINGER TIP.

NOW IT IS UP TO HER TO APPROACH YOU. If she chooses to approach she will not feel trapped. This can take a LONG time. If nothing frightens her off she will approach- you are now in the position that is as nonthreatening as a human can get.

If she gets close to you- close your eyes  
Do not make eye contact. She is now free to CHOOSE to be near you  
To really smell you and lower her fear levels.  
Be calm. Breathe slow and steady. Still no talk/ no eye contact.  
She can turn and bolt off in less time than a blink.  
**AS HARD AS IT IS -RELAX. SHE MUST FEEL YOU BEING CALM.**

If she chooses to "hook up" with you.  
She may eat the meat/ treat or lick you. Or nuzzle you or put her head on your hand etc.  
DO NOT MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS. YOU CANNOT GRAB A DOG.  
THEY ARE FASTER THAN YOU. YOU ALMOST HAVE HER. JUST WAIT FOR HER PERMISSION.  
USE EVERY OUNCE OF PATIENCE YOU HAVE. DO NOT MOVE YET.

She will be choosing to be caught now.  
Some dogs take 15 mins to hook up. Others take HOURS.

IF she touches your outstretched palm- one finger tip can touch.  
If she accepts that. Add one at a time under muzzle.  
SLOWLY VERY SLOWLY gently touch fingers along underside of muzzle/head to collar.  
Any more action than that will feel like you plan to grab- she'll know and she'll jump out of reach.  
DO NOT ALLOW THAT TEMPTATION TO GET YOU.

Once the nuzzling and acceptance of your touch has occurred – the collar is in your fingers. Gently SLOWLY- hook leash to collar. Now talk. Quietly tell her how awesome she is.

IF NO COLLAR – You'll have to move slow to slip a lead over her head- if you push too fast you'll frighten her and risk jumping away from you.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE a SLIP LEAD- make one out of the leash you have, clip onto the strap and make a loop big to slip over her head. It will act like a choke collar or slip lead.  
If you don't have anything with you- then make nice until you are allowed to scoop your arms around her and carry her. But you may want to whip out your cell phone and ask someone to bring you a collar and leash.

SHE WANTS TO BE FOUND, she is just frightened. SHE WANTS TO HOOK UP. She doesn't know who to trust- she's too scared. YOU CAN DO THIS. I KNOW YOU CAN.

Looking to foster or adopt: Check us out -- [www.apathwaytohope.org](http://www.apathwaytohope.org) ☺