



Bindi's Story

By Deb Borgo

Bindi went missing on October 11, 2022

LOST **white** DOG

Have You Seen Bindi?

Went Missing Tuesday, October 11th



Shy & Frightened...
Please Do Not Chase.

Very Shy ~ WHITE ~ Female
West Highland White Terrier

Please CALL/TEXT if you have seen her or have ANY information.

Phone Number

REWARD

for her SAFE recovery or return



She apparently saw a squirrel in the back and went through the screen on the porch. Neighbors saw her and alerted me, but by the time I got to her last known location she had vanished.

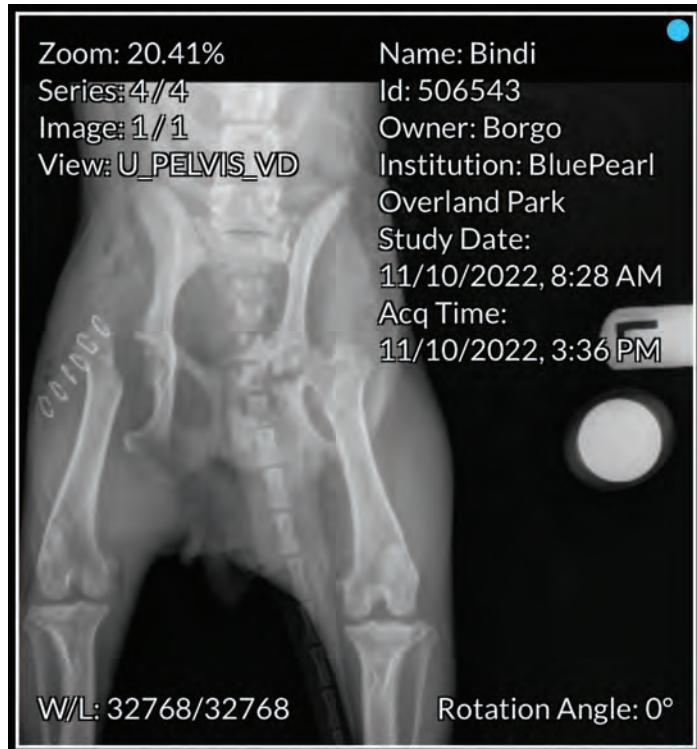
My biggest mistake was not starting a large scale search sooner, assuming she would stay the area. I immediately made up signs but they were much too small. The last time I had a dog get out I was in an urban area with a lot of foot traffic, and it was someone I handed the flyer to, walking a dog that eventually spotted her. Don't assume that because they're small they can't cover a lot of ground. Even in the urban area within a few hours, my other dog had traveled over 3 miles, but I was able to recover her in 8 hours.

After not hearing anything or catching sight of her while driving the area every day, I eventually hired a professional Petfinder. I was fortunate in that my friends both locally and on Facebook supported me financially as well as emotionally, so that I was able to do that. She got me organized. She knew how to establish a "brand" so that anyone even seeing the signs from a distance immediately recognized the dog and how to get in touch with me. The key to a good sign is a minimum of 11" x 17" laminated poster. Use a high contrast profile picture of the whole dog since that is what they will see if they see them at a distance.

Be generic in the description... "small white dog or terrier" instead of Westie. (*Many people don't know one breed from another*) The phone number must be very large. I posted on as many Facebook lost dog pages as I thought would cover the area where she might be or may have been taken, as well as all the vets, shelters, and groomers that someone may have taken her to. Also if there

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is a local radio or TV station put together an announcement for them as well. The Petfinder, designed the signs and sent them to an Office Depot near me to be printed and laminated as well as making Google maps showing the best places to hang them. She also had me put together a scent article in case that was needed for tracking. I used her Scentwork harness (which had hair stuck to the inside) along with several squares of gauze wrapped up in it and placed in a Ziploc bag. You also need to assemble a support team not only for moral support, because the fear and depression can totally immobilize you, but also to help hang signs and assist the tractor if that need arises.

Double check your chip number and make sure it is registered with all your current information and give that to the vets and shelters asking them to please scan any new dogs fitting their description that might be brought in. Put signs on your car on both sides and the back. Staple your laminated signs to 3 inch wooden stakes and then zip tie the stakes to poles or stop signs making sure they are at eye level to a driver. (*Do not wrap signs around poles as they're unreadable*) Do not underestimate the importance of blanketing the area with signs. In the end it was the signs we had hung and the ones on my car that proved the most successful in her recovery.

If you are in a more rural area, ask around if there are any trail cams where you can possibly leave food. If you're getting sightings that indicate they are staying in one area you can also possibly trap them. She also sent a form on how to take information from a person sighting the dog.

Important on taking a sighting: Have them describe the animal that they saw. Color, eyes, tail, approximate size... where they would come on their leg (shin, knee, thigh?) what street, cross street, or landmark they were near, the time of the day, what they were doing, and which direction they were traveling.

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No matter how many times you ask people not to chase, they will and unfortunately the dogs become so fearful they won't come even to you. I knew to sit on the ground or even lie down and toss treats to lure her closer, but even when I finally saw her myself I couldn't get close enough to do that.

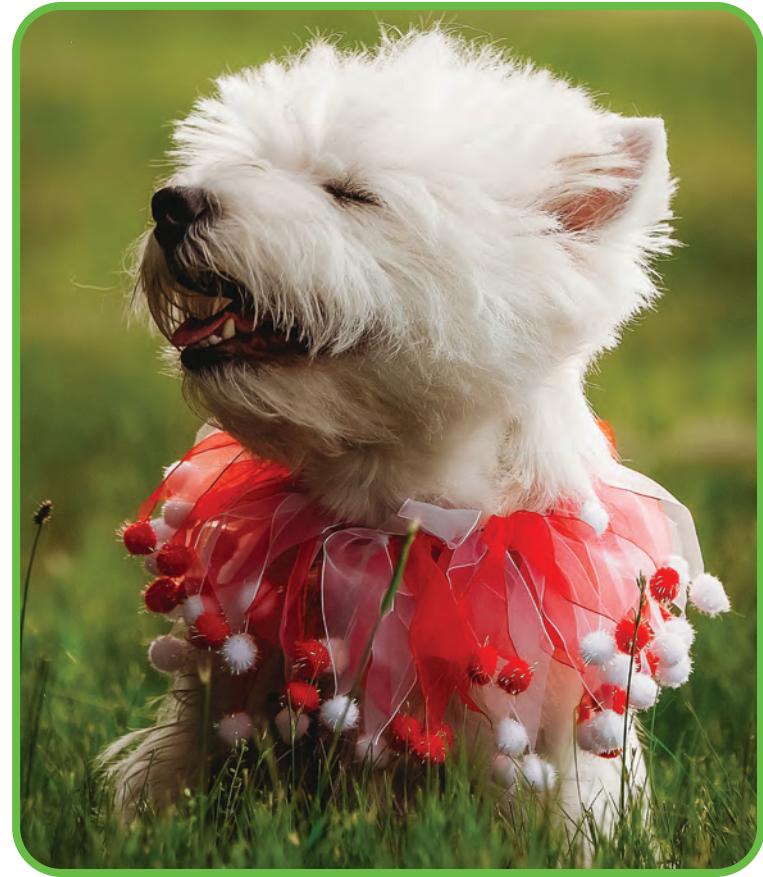
Never give up. I didn't get my first sighting in until 11 days after she went missing, 6 miles from home. The tracking dogs picked up her scent the next day and trailed her into a remote accessible area. We immediately put up more signs and the next sighting was five days after that slightly closer to home. Then after another 4 days later and multiple sightings on the last day a mile away.

On Halloween day, the very last day, it was the help of several people living in my area who had seen the signs along the road and on my car who helped me corral her. Although the recommendation is not to chase, it was the only way we finally were able to catch her.

I took her immediately to the vet but should have had x-rays done at that time. She had lost a third of her body weight. I had attributed her weakness to that, but when she was still having trouble keeping her feet under her a couple of days later, I took her back. We found that she had a fracture in her pelvis and a dislocated hip (most likely a week or more old) that required surgery. It took four months of rehabilitation, but she came back strong. In the nine months remaining in 2023 she earned 12 new titles in Rally, Barn Hunt, Scentwork, and Earthdog. I guess she learned to hunt while she was gone. The titles I am most proud of are her junior Earthdog title and her Master Barn Hunt.

It was the worst three-week nightmare that I have ever been through. Fortunately for me, I got a miracle. So never, ever give up! Reach out to your friends and community and let them support you. They got me through it, and I have my baby back.

*Forever grateful,
Deb Borgo*



Bindi



"When Bindi's new friends all agreed it was time for her to go home, they threw her a going away party."