

Vivi: Missing Whippet Update

Here's the latest update on the missing Westminster Whippet, Vivi.

Posted Courtesy of the American Whippet Club

For someone who believes that "full disclosure" and public knowledge of all the facts is the best way to go in almost all circumstances its extremely frustrating to be instructed to basically not say anything at all right now. However, I have to accept Jils lawyers advice that this is necessary for the time being.

Results of the ongoing search will be printed as soon as the lawyer authorizes it.

Paul arrived in New York after midnight on Thursday (so actually early Friday) and will be attending the fundraiser on Saturday at the Garden City Hotel. He is looking forward to meeting many of the volunteers helping to find Vivi, and to extend a personal thank you. For information about the fundraiser, contact Brian Rosenberg at brosenberg@gchotel.com.

Traps and BaitingNow is probably as good a time as any to focus on a possible next step. If, as we hope, this weeks search can establish that Vivi is still at JFK, and if she has "gone feral" to such a degree that she will not let herself be caught (as the experts with experience of lost dogs believe), then obviously live traps are the only way to go. Loading the traps with attractive bait would be crucial, since Vivi has shown no interest in the kibble used so far. I have ordered commercially manufactured "canine bait" and "long distance canine bait" to be available in New York if required for the traps.

I am including the following information about live traps and baiting here because it may not only be useful in catching Vivi, but also for anyone else who may need to catch a lost dog.

Lt. Alan B. Borgal of the Animal Rescue League of Boston has 30 years experience of catching lost dogs. He writes: "I would strongly suggest these two baits; it seems to work with dogs that have escaped and quickly become semi-feral from anxiety and fright. Typically dogs start to revert back to some kind of nocturnal instincts along with some diurnal sightings because they become desperate for food. I am currently using these baits in New Hampshire for a dog out for two years and it has seemed to bring the dog closer to the traps set. I also think the baits mask our human scent which may act as a warning/red flag for the dog. I did use these baits to catch an Italian Greyhound in the Berkshires after three months of setting traps. So I do think they may be of some value. These baits have a terrible odor but if used correctly I think might be enough of an attractant for the dog to seek out the traps. This is only a suggestion but it may work. P.S. Coyotes and foxes seem to stay away from these baits based on my experience with using them."