

PI Jamie Katz Lost and Found Pets

April 30, 2016

Roaming for 5 days in Fort Lauderdale, Florida...

Gaby is now SAFE & HOME!!!

Here is Gaby's story, told by Bonnie...

Gaby the Puggle's Amazing Adventure...

And how she made it back home.

I am going to provide a very detailed account of everything we went through, sequence of events on how my husband found her. This way anyone else in a similar situation has the knowledge from the get go on how to get their baby back home unharmed and as quickly as possible.

Day#1

It all started Sunday afternoon April 24th, we were in NJ celebrating Passover with Bonnie's parents. About 5 hours before we were to fly back home, we received a call from the dog sitter we had watching our 2 Puggle's. She had left the door open, and our youngest smallest Puggle Gaby escaped out the door. She is pretty skittish around most people, so they tried to catch her, to no avail, which made her run further and ultimately out of their sight. We were beside ourselves, as we were still in NJ and 5 hours from our flight of 3 hours. We started calling the local police departments to report it, and the Pet Sitter was combing the neighborhood looking for her. We landed in Ft. Lauderdale ~ 11pm, and there was no good news regarding Gaby. We drove to the pet sitter's house to pick up Baxter, and then drove around for a little while looking for Gaby yelling her name. We did not find her, and nobody else had seen her. It was late, we really didn't know the area, since the Pet Sitter lived ~ 10 miles from us. So Robert took Bonnie, Eric and Baxter home and went back out driving around the area until ~ 2am and still had not had any sighting of her. At this point we were even more distraught, if possible. Neither of us could sleep. And the previous three nights, we were on an air mattress, and really had not slept at all, so this is our 4th night with hardly any sleep. Talk about being tired...

Day#2

Later that morning Robert had to take Eric to school, so Bonnie got up and drove over to the pet sitters at 6am Monday morning, then over to the local Publix two blocks over from the Sitters house. Then she walked around the neighborhood behind the local Publix and asked anyone she saw if they had seen a dog fitting Gaby's description running around anywhere. I proceeded to speak with anyone and everybody I saw about Gaby, oftentimes blubbering inconsolably as I described what happened to each new person. While at Publix I also spoke to a Security guard there, as well as some local Fire Department employees about Gaby. Around 8:30am I left to go into work to start printing out fliers, as my husband returned to the search after dropping Eric off to school. I came into work to print large size fliers that my husband had made for Gaby. After printing the fliers, a couple of people at work asked me how I was doing, and then I just lost it. My co-worker asked if he could get me some water, and I just said I couldn't talk. I really was inconsolable. As I was at work, I got an email from the Pet Sitter saying that someone had just seen her running west on Griffin road, from the local Publix. So Robert ran out of the gated development behind Publix where he was walking around, and started driving up and down Griffin Road and all the streets off of it. Then after a while, Robert went back to Publix, parked his car and went back to the gated community behind Publix and started speaking to more people. A lady named Andrea said she had seen Gaby running from Publix into that community at 8:30am that morning, which is like the exact time he was there, and somehow he had missed her. Just after that, Robert ran into Officer Diaz, from the Broward county Sheriff's office, she gave him the location of the local sheriff's office, and her number to call her when she got into work. Robert went over to Broward county Sheriff's office at Dania beach and dispatch sent an email out to all officers on duty to be on the lookout for Gaby. I had gotten in touch with PI Jamie Katz, a Lost Pet Investigator, recommended to me by one of the members of my Puggle Mania Facebook group, by the way thank you whoever that was (sorry so much happened, hard to remember everything). Jamie asked me questions about Gaby's personality type in order to profile the case. At this point, we hadn't contracted her services, as we were still thinking that we would find Gaby on our own. Meanwhile Robert is just driving around a 5 mile radius looking for Gaby and talking to anybody he saw. I come back and resume the search, leaving work because I was so distraught and couldn't possibly sit there while Gaby was who knows where. I decide to put on some running clothes and try running around the neighborhood shouting her name, and being able to run around a few gated developments that I couldn't get into by car. At around 11am I ran into my husband at the Publix and saw what I thought was Gaby with him, and for a moment I was in absolute bliss. Sorry folks, the story doesn't wrap up there. He had brought our other dog Baxter to try to help in the search. I decided to try running with Baxter to see if maybe he could sniff her out. Ran around with him all up and down Griffin from

about 29th St to 40th Ave and then up 35th Avenue to another gated community and spoke with the maintenance and security guard at the front entrance. They hadn't seen her, but would be on the lookout. Later the sign we left at this community would be taken down. Baxter was pretty tired at this point, so I took him back to the car, we drove home in time to pick up my son, and my husband resumed his search of driving around and talking to people. He did put up some fliers as well. Later that evening Robert got home after I had put Eric to bed, around 8pmish. We then further discussed our options, and meanwhile, there had been no other sightings of Gaby.

Day#3

My husband asked the Pet Sitter Tues morning if she would be willing to pay Jamie Katz's Awareness Campaign fee. She agreed, and Jamie started working for Gaby's rescue Tuesday morning. Meanwhile, I had to go into work. I worked a half day and came home to help out with the search and also to pick up our son from school. Jamie mapped out the area and intersections where Robert would need to put up the signs. He went to staples and paid for 60 signs and went home to start putting together these signs to get them out as soon as possible, as we were told by Jamie, the Awareness Campaign is key in getting the word out and getting credible sightings to follow up on. The signs read not to chase her, but to call my husband's cell number, since we knew that the only people that were going to be able to catch her was either my husband or I. Tuesday afternoon, I decided that I was going to ride my bicycle around the mobile community about a mile behind Publix, as my husband was putting together signs and he and my son met me at the Publix. I took our son home for dinner, and my husband spent the next 4 hours putting up signs until he could no longer see. He face timed with our son, since he wouldn't be home until after he went to bed. He came home between 9pm-10pm Tuesday night after putting out a majority of the 60 signs on his own.

Day#4

Next morning, he woke up before 5am and went back to Publix again, and put out her bed and food bowls, since this was the last sighting. This is now Wednesday morning, and we're starting to worry because it's been 2 days since there was a sighting. We didn't hear about another sighting of Gaby until Wednesday afternoon, a woman had seen one of the signs my husband posted and turned out to be a credible sighting at Sterling and 40th (about 2 miles from her initial sighting). For me, this made me even more distraught because I felt that this would expand the search perimeter, and it felt somewhat hopeless to me realizing how much ground she had made, and the major streets she was crossing (both Sterling and Griffin are high traffic 4 lane streets). But my husband said that Jamie thought this was good news, that she was running the powerlines and coming out for food. I didn't understand this theory about the powerlines, but that's where dogs travel because they feel safe in there, so this was key to Gaby's survival ultimately, and our tracking her. Jamie had sent over a google earth map with the powerlines saying this is the area you need to concentrate on. Later Wednesday afternoon after still having no further sightings, my sister Anna said she was desperate to help in some way, and she offered to pay for Jamie's tracking dogs to come out and follow her scent. So at 5pm the dog sniffing endeavor began. Jamie and Robert ran with the dogs for nearly 3 hours and determined that she had not gone further south than Sterling Road, so in other words, it confirmed that she was simply running the powerlines between Griffin and Sterling Rd, only coming out for food. I put Eric to bed again that evening, and when Robert came home, I had expected Gaby to be with him, but this was not the case, as it was explained to be, that the outcome of the dog sniffing expedition was more to locate the boundaries she was in. I assumed it was to locate her exact position at that very moment...foolish thinking on my part. So while it didn't produce Gaby, it did narrow down the boundaries of where she would be found. However, we assumed that she would now be hanging out ~ Sterling and 40th. Which again, is 2 miles from her Publix sighting. We decided to order 60 more signs that Jamie mapped out based on where her tracking dogs had scent. Later that night Robert got home ~ 10pm, exhausted from not having slept much. We both fell asleep and didn't hear the phone ring at 11:30pm.

Day#5

Robert gets up ~ 4:30am to go to Sterling and 40th and do the pet attraction method, which is sitting and reading out loud for at least 2 hours to lure out the pet. As Robert is doing this, I'm taking Eric to school and the plan is to drop him off and meet Robert over at Sterling and 40th as soon as I can get there. As I was taking Eric to school, I got an IM from Jude Harris Iman, a fellow Puggle Mania member, telling me that I have to get in contact with this gentleman Fernando, that he had seen Gaby last night around 11:30pm, nearly getting run over by a car. I frantically copied the message and sent it to Robert. However, Robert had gotten the voicemail from Fernando when he woke at 4:30am. Robert told me to instead meet him by the Publix. When I got there he had said that he called Fernando, and was waiting to hear back, however the voicemail had said Gaby was seen by the Publix. Fernando then called Robert back and confirmed that he and his sister had seen Gaby there at the Publix. Robert sent him the pet ID card that Jamie made. Robert asked him to pick out which dog he saw and he picked out Gaby, so this was a credible sighting. This for me was good and bad news, good that someone had seen her, bad in that it worried me greatly knowing that she was running around at night, nearly hit by a car. Jamie said this was a good thing, because she didn't go further south of Sterling, and actually came back to where she was. We figured she probably ran back into

the powerlines, which is where she was headed when running away up 31st street, away from the Publix. Robert and I went to the gated community which backs up to the powerlines and asked if we could gain access to the powerlines back there so I could sit and read for 2 hours. They would only grant one of us access to go back there "with" the maintenance guy and only for 20 minutes. So that didn't produce any results. And no offense the maintenance worker was not helpful to being honest. At this point, the second set of 60 signs are ready at staples, so I go to pick them up while Robert goes to get the stakes to staple all the signs to. Robert comes home to put all the signs together, finishes and heads back out to put them up. Robert was driving around putting up the additional signs and he started at Sterling and 40th, made his way back up to 31st where the powerlines intersect with the trailer community. He then goes up to a fenced in private lake where Fernando had seen Gaby running into the night before. He stands there outside of the barbed wire fence slowly yelling Gaby's name, slowly saying "Gaaaaaaby"...."Gaaaaaaby" for ~ 15 minutes. He looked all around, didn't see her. He heads up to 31st and Griffin to put up another sign at that intersection where the Publix is. As Robert was putting up that sign, our good friends and old neighbors John and Kendall pulled up and said "Hey, we're here to help", Robert said "Great, pullover to Publix over there and I'll meet you in a couple minutes". Just then a guy pulled up in a little black car and said "Hey, I just saw that dog right back there". He was referring to the area where Robert was calling her name. Robert jumped in his car, called John and said "Hey someone just saw her up 31st street". John pulled behind, we drove up to where she was seen, got out of our vehicles. Robert started calling Gaby and there she came out from behind some bushes. Robert walked around this little fenced in area and said "Hi Gaby". She started wagging her tail. He laid down in the ground and said "Come here Gaby". And she came up to him and started going crazy. Robert started crying, Kendall started crying, absolute pure heaven. Robert handed his phone to Kendall and said "Here take a picture of us and send it to Bonnie". He put her in the car, gave him a bowl of food and water, bid farewell to our dear friends and headed home with the package.

- Bonnie Bennett in Fort Lauderdale, FL