

PI Jamie Katz Lost and Found Pets

August 19, 2016

<<<<<<>Look Who's Home<>>>>>

Roaming for 5 days in Lehigh Acres, FL... Max is now SAFE & HOME!!! Here is Max's story, told by his owner Corey...

I've had Max since he was 7 weeks old, he's a five year old, 15 pound, Chihuahua Mix. On Friday, August 12th, I came home around 9pm to find that Max was missing when my dogs were let out while I was at work. I was told that Max did not come back inside with the other dogs and had found a way out of the fence. I immediately went into a panic and called his name over and over as I rushed around my neighborhood in Lehigh Acres, FL. It's Friday night, Max was nowhere to be seen and once I realized he had hours of a head start, I started hyperventilating. After hours of searching and feeling completely helpless I cried myself to sleep. Saturday morning I got up early and canvassed my neighborhood. I was desperately looking for his little tail running down the streets and as the hours passed I felt hope slipping away by the second. I just knew he was dead. It had been too long, he was too small and too FAST.

In the late hours of Saturday night I was told I should reach out to PI Jamie Katz, the Pet Detective. Part of me felt absolutely ridiculous even considering it and the other part of me knew I'd regret not trying everything in my human power to bring my baby home. Within minutes Jamie responded to my very vague and skeptical email. She told me to call her in the morning and we could get started right away. I fell asleep wondering what she could be offering and if Max was even still alive in this big scary world.

Jamie launched the awareness campaign the very next morning and I spent all Sunday putting up posters of Max, per Jamie's carefully thought out mapping. Monday was spent chasing false leads and I was a complete mess by night fall, it felt like a year had passed since I had seen Max's little face.

Tuesday morning came and as I lay in bed, trying to come to terms with my loss before having to go back to work. At 7:20am a lady attached Max's awareness poster to a 'found dog' post on a Facebook group. The post had a picture and the lady recognized Max from the posters and asked me if this was the same dog. I could not believe my eyes, after 5 days, Max had been sighted!

The address was 6 minutes from me and I was there by 7:30am but Max was already gone. Jamie instructed me through the day step by step of what to do. We put up more signs in the sighting area, where people who see them as they drove but Max had disappeared. Jamie told me that I needed to stay in the area for hours or until a new sighting came in and then I was to rush to the new sighting and set up my chair and stuff to keep me busy. The plan was to lure Max to me by way of scent, if he could smell me in the area, he most likely would stick around. By 1pm I still hadn't seen him and then the sighting came in 4 blocks away at 2pm... but it took the person 15 minutes to report the sighting to me. I called Jamie, frustrated and feeling helpless and she kept me focused. Jamie told me again that I was supposed to sit and wait at the most recent sighting for Max to show up.

Finally at 12:30am Wednesday morning I got a phone call saying Max was in their back yard. It was a mile from the original sighting, which is the one I pretty much camped out at. I was there in 2 minutes literally and just in time to see Max ducking off into some shrubs. I called to him, almost blind from adrenaline, and he kept going. I remember Jamie telling me I needed to sound happy and not panicked and so I tried again. This time he froze like a deer in headlights and I could tell that he was thinking of running. Jamie said over and over, "If you get in front of Max, drop to the ground". I dropped to the ground and asked him if he wanted to go home. His facial expressions changed and I could see it dawned on him, he knew who I was! He hightailed it over to me, crawled up my shirt and was freaking out while licking my face and wagging his tail so fast. I've never, in my life, felt what I felt the moment that little dog ran into my arms. I hugged half the neighborhood, introduced Max to the people that had been with me that day and I finally got to take my little man HOME. He survived 5 days in the shrubs and sticks, and was hit by a car. Max is having surgery due to being hit by the car and I will keep everyone updated on this.

Without Jamie, I would've given up days before. I'm a logical, rational person and in my eyes, the odds were against me ever seeing my little man again and it hurt less not to hope. But Jamie had the proven statistics and a plan. That's my language! She kept me going and kept me clear headed. I can't help but wonder how my story would've ended if I hadn't sent that email to Jamie. I truly feel that it made all the difference. I walked away with my boy and gained a fellow animal loving friend. PI Jamie Katz is definitely on my Christmas card list.

- Corey M. in Lehigh Acres