Seekonk

Seekonk vet, owner search for lost 'Tuffy'

BY MATT ROCHELEAU FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE Tuesday, July 29, 2008 3:09 AM EDT

Tuffy

SEEKONK - The owners of a Pomeranian named "Tuffy" and staff at Central Avenue Veterinary Clinic are on the lookout for the small dog that escaped from the clinic last week.

Tuffy was frightened following a severe thunderstorm that swept through the area last Wednesday and bolted from the clinic where he was being boarded.

The 8-year-old dog is about 1 1/2 feet long, weighs 10 pounds and has a reddish coat and white chest, said the owner, MarkChartier, of 55 Middle St. in Attleboro.

Tuffy wears a blue collar with tags, said Tina Truesdale, wife of clinic veterinarian William Truesdale.

A reward is being offered, but the amount was not immediately announced. The dog has been spotted on three occasions over the past six days, including near Tiffany Street in Seekonk, the baseball fields off North Street and Shirwood Drive and along South Main Street near the railroad tracks.

Several hours after heavy nighttime thunderstorm, Tuffy was still "petrified" and dug a hole under a fence at the clinic, Truesdale said.

The clinic hired Debbie Scarpellini, a professional dog finder, on Saturday, Truesdale said.

She said Scarpellini told her that should anyone spot Tuffy, they should not call out or approach him because the dog will likely be frightened.

Chartier, after returning from a one-week vacation in Mexico with his wife, said they had their only pet boarded in a kennel at the facility.

Tuffy has been a regular visitor to the clinic for the past eight years, Truesdale said.

Chartier said anyone who sees the dog or can provide helpful information should call his home phone at 508-399-5223, Tina Truesdale at 508-642-7866 or Debbi Scarpellini at 508-208-8616.

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