

RoamEO GPS Pet Location System

Contributed by Mary Beth Close

When I adopted Ted and Coalie in 1992 from the Santa Clara Humane Society in California, I learned the true meaning of "escape artists". Both black lab mixes, both picked up on county highways, both in the shelter for over 3 weeks...it took some time for them to learn what "home" was. We had a 12-foot fence with locking gates. To this day, I don't know how they did it. But they escaped -- seven times in the first six months I had them.

Though we only spent one week together as a dog family, their first escape was the most traumatic event I ever experienced. Knowing that they were running loose near busy streets, out where anyone could pick them up, looking for me, hungry...my imagination went on overdrive. I went on foot and drove around for eight hours straight -- and finally found them. The relief that rushed through me far outweighed the pain - we were OK again.

Until the next, escape……

The anxiety that went with not knowing where they were, and not being able to do a thing about it, was a fear I would not wish on anyone. Not even my husband's ex. There is now a new tool that dog parents can use, to track exactly where their dogs are, exactly where they are heading, at what speed…I would have paid anything to have it then.

RoamEO offers new dog parents, long-time dog parents, and dog professionals a way to keep track of our dogs unlike any other product on the market. How it works:

Like other GPS tracking devices, RoamEO utilizes signals from the Satellite network to locate where your dog is. However, it is the only GPS tracking product on the market that does not use cell towers. This is important, as the signal from cell towers can have long delays and "dead areas" - which could mean life or death for your dog. RoamEO sends you a signal about every second, which is real time.

RoamEO is an effective tool for dogs that have or can get away from you. The chances that your dog will go missing are increased if these situations exist with your dog:

- New to your home
 - New to you
 - In the care of a dog walker
 - In the care of a pet sitter
 - You have visitors of any type
 - Learning/do not know "Come!"
 - Learning how to walk on leash/tug/pull hard on leash
 - Wanders at the park or beach
 - Jumps fences
 - Dashes out the front door
 - Dashes out the car door
 - Afraid of thunderstorms
 - Does not have fun on the 4th of July
 - Females that go into heat or males that are un-neutered
 - Curious, roamer, sniffer
 - Bored
 - Critter chaser
- RoamEO is an effective tool for dog parents and dog professionals during crucial times:
- While at work/trips: Someone besides you is "watching" your dog family
 - When company visits
 - On day trips/car rides to unfamiliar territory
 - Home construction/repair is going on
 - On walks— to the park/through the park/to the beach
 - While working at home (my escape artists seemed to know when I was deep in thought)
 - During holidays
 - When family members, visitors or delivery folks never seem to close doors or gates

A special note of interest is the need and use of the RoamEO when someone else cares for your dogs. In an interview with the Sherlock Bones group, responsible for finding more lost dogs than any other agency in the US for the past 30 years, I learned that approximately 60% of dogs that are lost, go missing when someone other than the dog parents are watching them. There is a very good reason for this. The dog's living structure, environment, routine, and emotional needs change dramatically when the dog parents leave and someone else is there. Even care givers that have cared for the dog family many times before are "surprised" by aberrant behavior.

Even if you are home, your pet family is at great risk. Family, friends, and even strangers such as delivery or service workers often leave doors and gates open. It is important to set up a system to keep your dog family home and safe, such as posting signs on doors and gates that read "Keep Closed! Do Not Lose Dogs!" With RoamEO, you can actually create a "fence" within your home that will sound an alarm if your dog leaves the house (no, this fence is NOT electric!!). RoamEO provides the insurance that can bring you complete peace of mind. Canine Kingdom Awards the RoamEO the Canine Kingdom Seal of Approval for the following reasons:

- Works Real Time: RoamEO sends a signal every 3 SECONDS. Most "pet trackers" work with a GPS/Cellular network, that sends a signal every 3 MINUTES at best or even in a day or two at worst – depending on your cell service. In addition, you need to call every time you want an update on where your pet is headed. This could be the difference between life and death. We could stop right there, but there's more.
- Coverage: GPS/Cell is limited to cell tower coverage. If you have limited or no cell phone coverage you cannot use these products. Here is a link to a cell tower coverage map.
- Fee Structures: The GPS/Cell and other related items that work from cell towers have expensive cell phone fee structures. From activation fees to monthly fees to surcharges for "finds" above what the plan allows, the basic cost quickly grows from \$289 to \$600 for the first year, all for the limited coverage of cell towers. RoamEO has no hidden fees or costs other than its purchase price. A price that is fixed, and fair.
- Alarms: GPS/Cell alarms are sent to your cell phone, PDA, or computer. There are always delays from the time the last known location is sent out and the time your device receives it. Unless the dog obediently remains in the last location you will constantly be playing catch-up. By the time you reach the destination your pet will have moved on. GPS/Cell only sends out updates every 3 minutes. RoamEO shows location, direction, and speed of travel in real time so you know exactly where your pet is at all times.
- "Walk Mode": In order to take your pet for a walk outside you need to set the GPS/Cell unit into "Walk" mode. In 'walk mode' owners can walk and travel with their pet outside of fenced areas undisturbed. Should you and your pet become separated, tracking must be initialized remotely by dialing F-O-U-N-D from your cell phone or PDA. With RoamEO you can just take the handheld unit with you and you become the center of everything. If the dog gets away you can instantly track him down in real time without having to dial anything in and wait for the delayed updates.
- Collar Size: The GPS/Cell collar is huge, which may be hung up in brush or lost. RoamEO is much smaller and less obtrusive.
- Water Resistant vs. Waterproof: RoamEO collar is the only waterproof GPS product on the market. This is important if your dog is lost near bodies of water
- Price is Reasonable: RoamEO's price is less than most tracking systems, and includes a large and readable LCD screen for easy viewing at the most critical time - when your dog is lost. It is made for caring dog parents. For the cost of a few vet visits, or the average "Reward" for a lost dog, you can have the tool that may very well keep your dog with you for years to come. Canine Kingdom has the lowest price for RoamEO at \$490. There is no need to shop around for the 'best deal' or to figure out hidden fees or additional costs. For its life saving capability and the important need it fills... for its globally unique features and ease of use, especially in panic situations, Canine Kingdom award the RoamEO the Canine Kingdom Seal of Approval.