

FINDING HOBO

FEBRUARY, 2019: THERE HAVE NOW BEEN NUMEROUS SIGHTINGS AROUND HEMPSTEAD OF A STRAY DOG. HE IS PERHAPS A LABRADOR/LURCHER CROSS, WITH SANDY FUR, VERY DIRTY, VERY WARY OF PEOPLE, AND FRIGHTENED OF LOUD NOISES.

GATHERING INFORMATION AS TO THE TIMES & LOCATIONS OF SIGHTINGS OF 'HOBO' SUGGESTS HIS ROAMINGS ARE CONCENTRATED IN A BAND ACROSS THE VILLAGE FROM WINSLOW ROAD THROUGH THE HIGH STREET AND UP CHURCH HILL, INCLUDING THE CHURCHYARD ITSELF.

EXPERT ADVICE HAS BEEN SOUGHT REGARDING RESCUING HOBO, WHO MUST BE VERY HUNGRY, IN NEED OF VETERINARY CARE, AS WELL AS PERMANENT SHELTER AND AFFECTION. A SHELTER WILL BE CREATED IN HOBO'S CURRENT 'PATCH'; IT WILL BE WEATHER-PROOF, WARM, AND WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH FOOD AND CLEAN WATER TWICE A DAY TO TRY TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO FOCUS ON A SMALLER AREA. IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE:-

- § If you see Hobo, do NOT chase him or lunge at him; your intentions will be good, but it will at present only cause him to flee; he is clearly NOT used to kindly human contact; report your sighting to niki@hempstead-essex.org.uk
- § If you suspect that Hobo is sleeping on your property, please e-mail the Hempstead website as above
- § If you see Hobo enter a building, please do your best to shut him in, then call 01799 510594 to report it to Uttlesford District Council's Animal Warden, or 01223 849755 for UDC's out-of-hours Animal Warden service; please note that Essex Police now no longer deal with stray dogs, but it remains a legal requirement to report that you have captured one
- § Do not make eye contact with Hobo (which for all dogs is challenging); use a very quiet and gentle tone of voice, and crouch down side-on to him if you can so as to be non-threatening

§ Please do not leave out food for Hobo; it is very tempting to do so, but we would like him to focus on his new 'shelter' for food, water and warmth, hopefully making him easier to eventually catch

WHETHER A DOG-LOVER OR NOT, WE'RE SURE YOU AGREE THAT NO DOG SHOULD BE LIVING LIKE THIS, ESPECIALLY ONE WHOSE Demeanour SUGGESTS THAT THE HUMANS IN HIS PREVIOUS EXISTANCE HAVE BEEN LESS THAN KIND. LET'S UNITE TO TRY TO GIVE THIS STORY A HAPPY ENDING.

THANK YOU.