

## Social media reunites man with pooch



**Social media reunites man with pooch.** Sheldon Lyons, left, was reunited with his two-year-old dog Suluu after Lana Bloom, right, posted his picture on Facebook. The dog went missing from his St. Anns home Dec. 13 and was returned Feb. 21. submitted photo

### Amanda Moore

March 6, 2013

A picture on Facebook has reunited a St. Anns man with his missing pooch.

Sheldon Lyons' two-year-old sled dog Suluu went missing Dec. 13, 2012. The pooch wandered off his rural property and mysteriously disappeared. That same day the dog was dropped off at the Brant County SPCA in Brantford, where it remained until two weeks ago when Lyons was reunited with his missing dog.

Pam Huson of Beamsville 4 Paws Rescue spotted the dog's picture on Facebook. An SPCA visitor, Lana Bloom, had posted a picture of the two-year-old sled dog on the social media network and Huson, who was aware of Suluu, immediately contacted Lyons.

"She told me to check Facebook, but I don't have Facebook," said Lyons, who was overjoyed when Huson eventually texted him the photo. "That was my boy."

Lyons said he never gave up hope that Suluu was alive, but feared he would never see the dog again. He said the dog has been known to wander, but would always make his way home.

"I didn't know where he was, but I knew he was safe," said Lyons, who said the two months Suluu was missing were agonizing, especially the holidays.

It would be a few more hours before Lyons would be reunited with the dog. He runs his own business, Oren Mechanical, and was tied up with service calls.

On Thursday, Feb. 21, at 4 p.m., Lyons pulled into the Brantford shelter.

Suluu, who was in an outdoor kennel, was ecstatic at the sight, as seen on a video from their reunion.

"It was pretty special. I don't know how to explain," said Lyons, who is overjoyed to have his dog back. "He had all fours wrapped around me."

The dog was brought to the Brant County SPCA as a stray, said Robin Kuchma, executive director, the same day it went missing from its home in St. Anns, more than an hour away.

"We always have a concern when a dog gets brought to us in the back of a pickup truck and our questions are not answered thoroughly," explained Kuchma, noting that Suluu was placed for adoption after the period to claim a stray had passed. "Sometimes we don't always think the story is legitimate, but we always take in the animal to make sure it is safe."

Suluu, whom the shelter had named Concord, was adopted out at one point but the family returned it because it was "too much of an outdoor dog," said Kuchma.

"Now we call that fate," she said, noting there wasn't a dry eye in the shelter on Feb. 21 when Suluu was reunited with his owner.

"We were all on pins and needles when we got the call he was coming," said Kuchma. "Watching that reunion, there wasn't a dry eye in the place. If Suluu could have shown tears, he would have. I've never seen a dog hug like that, with all fours."

Suluu is settled back in at home, thanks to fellow animal lovers.

"Lana is my angel," said Lyons, who was overwhelmed by the support he received from the community while Suluu was missing. "I want to thank all the people that called and showed their concern."

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