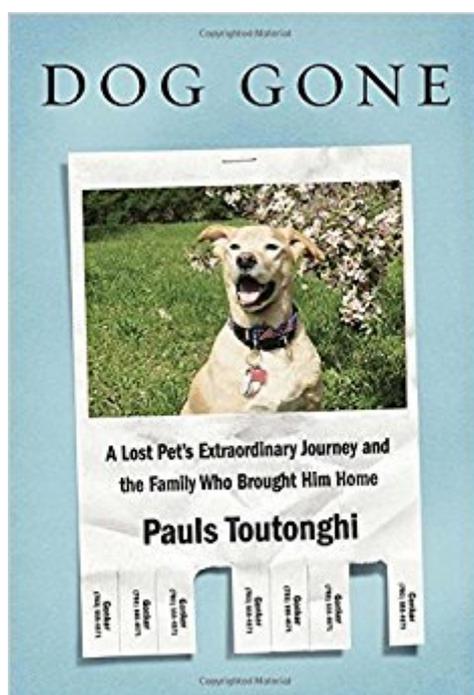


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# Dog Gone: A Lost Pet's Extraordinary Journey And The Family Who Brought Him Home



## Synopsis

The true story of a lost dog's journey and a family's furious search to find him before it is too late. Saturday, October 10, 1998. Fielding Marshall is hiking on the Appalachian Trail. His beloved dog—a six-year-old golden retriever mix named Gonker—bolts into the woods. Just like that, he has vanished. And Gonker has Addison's disease. If he's not found in twenty-three days, he will die. The search begins. Fielding and his father, John, are dispatched to the field. They have the family's other dog, Uli, in tow. Combing the trails, Fielding and his father bond like never before. Fielding's sister, Peyton, calls and talks him through some of his lowest moments. And—at home—Fielding's mother, Virginia, sets up a command center. Virginia becomes a field general. With a map and a phone book at her side, she contacts animal shelters, police precincts, general stores, community centers, newspapers, radio stations, churches, and park rangers. She is tireless. The local paper in Waynesboro, Virginia, writes a small story about the family's search. The story hits the AP newswire. Tips—many of them of questionable authenticity—pour in from across the country. But as the search continues, the Marshalls realize they may not survive losing Gonker. Even as the wounds of their past return to haunt them and threaten to jeopardize everything, they know they have one mission: bring Gonker home. With a big heart, intelligent humor, and a deft touch, Pauls Toutonghi tells this true tale of loss, love, and resilience. *Dog Gone* is by turns a story about how a family comes together in a crisis—and the way heroism can assert itself in the little things we do each day.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Knopf (June 14, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101947012

ISBN-13: 978-1101947012

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #32,460 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Essays](#) #171 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Dogs](#) #907 in [Books > History > World](#)

## Customer Reviews

DOG GONE is much more than just the saga of a missing golden retriever named Gonker who also suffers from Addison's disease and must have injections on a regular basis in order to live and stay healthy. (But he also loves fresh doughnuts and has a little trick of letting people spit into his mouth.) More importantly perhaps it is about the messy lives of Gonker's owner/friend Friendly and the entire Marshall family consisting of Friendly's mother Ginny, his father John and his sister Peyton who just happens to be the wife of the author Pauls Toutonghi. He says that he became interested in the story of Gonker when he kept noticing on visits to the family home in McLean, Virginia that there were far more photos of the beloved dog than anyone else in this family that you pretty much have to love. It was so very gracious of them to allow Mr. Toutonghi to delve into their family history, both the good and the bad, and particularly that of Ginny whose mother was a hopeless alcoholic, and by anyone's standards, a horrible mother. Almost half of this book, that as Jay Parini says in his recommendation is "one of those rare books that reads you more than you read it," is about events in this family's lives before Fielding loses Gonker on the Appalachian Trail. Mr. Toutonghi goes a tremendous job of building suspense by labeling each chapter as Day so-and-so and telling the reader how many days are left before Gonker will be in trouble and will die if he does not get his required medicine: "Wednesday, October 14, 1998, Day Three of Search " Seventeen Days left." He also has a chapter of two where he gets inside the head of this dog and his thought processes, if a dog can think. Mr.

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