

Fearful Dog Adopter's Safety Guide



HOME

- Keep a leash on the dog at all times, using a slip leash or snug martingale collar, with a human holding the end of the leash when the dog is out of his crate.
- Inform all household members to keep the doors closed.
- Keep windows open no more than a few inches. Dogs can jump through screens.
- Use a crate to avoid mishaps when doors or windows may be open.
- Use a crate when dog is unattended to prevent dog feeling overwhelmed.
- Teach dog to not run out door as in video [Door Bangers](#)

YARD

- Use a leash or long line at ALL times, holding the end of the line until the dog feels safe.
- Discourage the dog from jumping the wall or fence as shown in video [Fence Jumpers](#).
- Fearful dogs will bolt due to a loud noise or scary motion out of your control even though they have been in the home for a few weeks. NEVER leave a fearful dog unattended in your yard until it is certain they will not run away.
- Secure all gates with padlocks.
- Inspect all fences. Repair any holes or escape routes. Dogs can squeeze through gate bars.
- Add concrete/stone pavers under gates to prevent digging and escaping.

CAR

- USE A CRATE. This is the safest way to transport any dog. If you don't have a crate do the following:
- Tether the dog to a headrest or other object in the back seat. Have the tether short enough so the dog cannot reach the door or front seat, but can lay down.
- Use a divider to keep the dog in the trunk area of a SUV or station wagon but still TETHER.
- Shut the handle end of the leash in the door so it sticks outside the car. Grab the leash before opening the door.
- DO NOT leave the windows open more than a few inches. Think your dog won't jump out? Think again.
- Large dogs can squeeze through small spaces. Do not underestimate them.

WALK

- Use a slip lead or snug-fitting martingale collar that tightens around the dog's neck with tension on leash like a martingale. Harnesses are NOT SECURE unless backed up to a secure collar.
- Use a ½" or wider leather or biothane leash. This texture keeps the leash from slipping out of your hands. A thinner leash is fine for a small dog under 20 lbs.
- Hold the leash with your hand through the end loop and grabbing the leash through the loop or attach the loop to a thick, secure belt.
- NEVER let the dog off leash without extensive training to come when called.
- Fearful dogs can get spooked by things easily and run off even after being with an adopter for years. To give your dog freedom but avoid the dog running away, use a long line.