

Safety: For you, your new dog, and current pets



Keeping both you and your dog safe should be your foremost concern. Remember that your dog may be extremely frightened at first. We have witnessed countless bites, dogs running away from homes, and other tragedies that can be prevented when the proper precautions are taken. Here are guidelines to keep you and your dog safe.

1. How not to lose your dog:

For the first several weeks or months, your dog may panic and try to escape. (Don't be offended; remember your dog is practicing the only behavior he/she knows, to run from new or scary things). All too often, dogs slip collars, jump from cars, bolt out an open door/gate, jump over or dig under a fence. Here are precautions to follow to keep your dog safe

- Use extra caution when you first let your dog have free roam of your house. If your house is large, you may want to have your dog start out in only one or two rooms. Use a baby gate if needed.
- Be sure that everyone in the household knows to be careful when going in and out doors. Have baby gates at open doors to outside to prevent sudden escape attempts.
- In the car, be sure to only crack windows slightly—dogs can go through a much smaller space than seems possible. Always have the dog on a leash and have the leash tied or a hold of it to prevent them “slipping” out the car door when you open it.
- Consider having your dog travel in a crate in the car. Getting in and out of the car are prime opportunities for your dog to slip away in confusion. Placing your dog in the crate and putting the crate in the car is the safest way to travel with your dog.