

CRITICAL SAFETY FOR YOUR NEW DOG

When dogs are put into a new place with new people, they are often **NERVOUS** and **SCARED**. Their instinct is to escape this frightening situation. Newly adopted and fostered dogs are **EXTREMELY VULNERABLE** to running away and becoming lost and in danger. Keep your new family member or foster safe by following these **CRITICALLY IMPORTANT** precautions. You cannot be too careful during this time.



ALWAYS USE A PROPERLY FITTED MARTINGALE COLLAR

Your dog may try to escape by pulling away from you while on leash and slipping their collar.

Always use a martingale collar, which is designed to be slip-proof when properly fitted. It has a loop that allows the collar to tighten when pulled.

A properly fitted martingale collar is snug but not tight. When pulled, the loop should tighten, but the links connecting it to the rest of the collar should not touch.

If you use a harness when you walk your dog, either connect the martingale collar to the harness with a carabiner, or use two leashes, one attached to the harness and one to the martingale.



SECURE YOUR DOG BEFORE OPENING DOORS

Your dog may try to escape by dashing through an open or even slightly cracked door.

Always secure your dog before opening exterior doors. Keep at least one barrier between your dog and the door.

Your dog could be secured in a crate, in a separate room with a closed door, or behind a very sturdy gate that they cannot get over.



KEEP YOUR DOG ON LEASH IN YOUR YARD, EVEN IF THE YARD IS FENCED

Your dog may try to escape your yard by jumping over or digging under fences.

Just like your house, your yard is a new place that your dog must get used to.

If your yard is not fully and securely fenced, your dog should always be on leash in your yard.

If you have a fenced yard, keep your dog on leash in the yard for at least the first three weeks. Always use a properly fitted martingale collar.

Make sure fencing is secure, with no gaps between fencing materials or between the fence and the ground. Keep gates securely closed at all times. Make sure there is nothing a dog could climb on and then use to jump over the fence.



For more essential safety precautions and information on what to do if your dog becomes lost, visit gatekeeperk9rescue.org.



TRANSPORTING YOUR DOG HOME



PICKING UP YOUR NEW DOG

Before leaving the building, make sure your dog is wearing a properly fitted martingale collar. Attach a leash directly to the collar, or attach the collar to your dog's harness with a carabiner.

Always maintain a secure grip on the leash. Loop the leash handle around your wrist and hold tight for the safest grip.



IN THE CAR

When getting your dog into your car, do not loosen your grip on the leash until your dog is secure.

Secure your dog in a crate or with a dog seatbelt. Another option is to simply pull a car seatbelt through the leash handle and securely lock it in place.



TRANSITIONING BETWEEN CAR AND HOUSE

This can be a difficult, scary transition for many dogs. Your dog may try to escape at any point.

If you have an attached garage, park in the garage and securely close all garage doors.

Before opening any car doors, make sure you have a secure grip on the leash, and that the leash or harness is securely connected to your dog's martingale collar.

Your dog may be slow to get out of the car and walk to the house. Be patient, positive, and calm.

Once inside, securely close all doors before loosening your grip on the leash.

FIRST DAYS AND WEEKS AT HOME

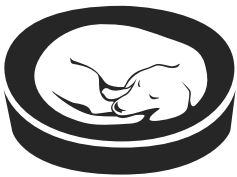
THE RULE OF 3

In the first 3 **DAYS** in a new home, dogs often feel overwhelmed and scared. Give your dog space and do not force interaction.

In the first 3 **WEEKS** in a new home, dogs become more comfortable, but may still be nervous and have their guard up.

After about 3 **MONTHS** in a new home, most dogs feel comfortable and secure. They are bonding with their new family and their personality begins to shine.

Some dogs will take much longer to become comfortable. Be patient and let your dog go at their own pace.



GIVE YOUR DOG TIME AND SPACE TO DECOMPRESS

Your dog has probably been through a lot before coming to you and may be stressed and anxious. Your dog needs at least a few days to decompress and begin to relax in their new home.

Create a **SAFE SPACE** for your dog to go when they feel overwhelmed and need to calm down. This can be a crate, or a crate-like space created by draping a blanket over a table.



Provide items for your dog to chew on, such as dog bones, kongs filled with peanut butter, or toys. This will help your dog relieve anxiety. Always supervise your dog while they have these items.



Your dog may not feel comfortable eating during the day. Make food available so they can eat when ready. If you crate your dog overnight and they have not eaten, leave food in the crate with them. Always have fresh water available.

SLOWLY introduce your dog to new people and situations. Always take critical safety precautions.



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