



NEW PET?



How to prevent **THE GREAT ESCAPE!**

Rescues and shelters are all too familiar with the calls from panicked new pet parents. Roscoe jumped out of the car! Tippy slipped her leash!

Why does this happen? Pets get excited and skittish in new situations. In the first few weeks, escapes are too common and too dangerous to let happen. Here are some tips to avoid THE GREAT ESCAPE!

- 1) Use a collar and harness combination.
- 2) Keep leash on and during any excitable time (visitors in house or when outside during the first few weeks). Attach ID tags to all collars and harnesses.
- 3) Use a crate in the car, or a dog seatbelt.
- 4) Allow time for pet to recognize boundaries and surroundings. Walk regularly on double leash or leash/harness to get pet used to surrounding home.
- 5) Do not leave loose dog unattended, even in a fenced backyard, for at least the first month. It's a good practice to never leave pets outdoors or in cars unattended.
- 6) If there is no secure screen door or storm door, consider a baby fence or gate barricade to prevent pet from bolting out front door.
- 7) Secure windows. Pets easily push through screens not even seeing them.
- 8) Be prepared. For new or savvy owners alike, know when pets are most apt to flee! During fireworks, storms, parties, holidays, construction, deliveries. A baby play yard is a good investment to keep pets in one area of the house. Pets also get lost when with pet sitters because they are not familiar with each other's habits.
- 9) Microchip your pet and immediately register the chip with contact info. Keep contact info up to date.
- 10) If the escape does happen, report your pet lost to the county, update microchip as lost, go door to door near where they were lost with flyers that include picture and phone number. Join your local Lost and Found Pet group on Facebook! There are countless pet advocates who volunteer their time to help find lost pets.