



TRANSITION TIPS

DOGS IN TRANSITION ARE ALWAYS A FLIGHT RISK

From the time he leaves the familiar safety of his home or foster home until he has fully bonded with his new guardian, a dog is unsettled and more likely to run. The best way to protect your new family member is to give him time to adjust to his new environment and ensure he doesn't have the opportunity to flee.

We have learned some hard and tragic lessons with rescued dogs in this situation. A dog on the loose is a dog in danger!

Also, dogs in transition can also be fearful and may use the only language they know to tell us to back off—a growl. This typically resolves as the dog starts to feel safe. Please follow the tips below until your dog feels comfortable in your home—for both your safety and the safety of your dog.

THE TRIP HOME

- **DO NOT** stop for dog potty breaks on the way home from picking up your dog!
- **DO** crate the dog in the car or make sure her leash is securely tied to a structure inside the car.
- **DO** pull into your garage, if possible, and close the door before removing your dog from the car.

THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

- **DO NOT** use a standard flat collar as the only means of restraining your dog while on a leash.
- **DO** use the martingale collar that was provided with your dog.
- **DO** use a martingale collar and two leashes when walking your dog (or one leash and one slip lead) and hold one in each hand for the first two weeks.
- **DO NOT** allow your dog to charge the door when people are coming and going.
- **DO** secure all gates and fences in your yard.
- **DO** caution your children and their friends about doors and gates.
- **DO NOT** give bones, rawhides or toys that the dog may feel the need to guard.
- **DO NOT** remove anything from the dog's mouth!
- **DO** trade the item for a yummy treat or wait for the dog to finish with the item.
- **DO NOT** reach for the dog's collar to move him/her.