

BASIC DOG SAFETY

A short guide to keeping your dog safe

*SOME SIMPLE MEASURES YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP KEEP YOUR DOG
SAFE FROM LOSS OR ACCIDENT.*

Whilst out and about:

- 🐾 Ensure your dog wears a collar and a tag giving your name, address and telephone number. This is required by law.
- 🐾 Have your dog micro-chipped.
- 🐾 Remember to update both sets of details if you move house.
- 🐾 Keep your dog on a short lead when walking along roads. (Allowing your dog to walk by roads without a lead, or even on a long extending lead, can cause a road traffic accident however well-trained your dog is.)

Off-lead exercise:

- 🐾 Only allow your dog off the lead in areas you consider safe.
- 🐾 If you are unsure of your dog's reaction to anything or anyone in that area, put him back on the lead. Frightened or fearful dogs can react by bolting.
- 🐾 Always keep your dog on a lead near livestock.
- 🐾 Ensure your dog responds promptly to coming when called. Good recall is a vital part of early training. Remember to always praise your dog for coming to you. Never admonish or punish him for not coming, otherwise your dog will become less inclined to return to you.
- 🐾 Maintain communication with your dog whilst he is off the lead, and have treats or a special toy with you to use as a lure and reward
- 🐾 Keep your dog within sight and call him to you should he begin to stray too far.
- 🐾 Teach your dog to do an emergency "stop" - train him to stop on cue and reward him for doing so.



At home:

- 🐾 Ensure your garden is secure, and that your dog cannot get out through any gaps or jump over the fence. To test this, stand on the other side of the fence and call your dog to you with the promise of a treat to see if he can find a way out!
- 🐾 Ensure the gate is firmly secured at all times.

Preventing theft of your dog:

- 🐾 Don't leave your dog alone outside shops or other buildings.
- 🐾 Don't leave your dog unattended in a front garden where he can be taken by someone intent on dog-napping.
- 🐾 Don't leave your dog unattended in your car - thieves can steal dogs from cars.
- 🐾 Never allow your dog to go out on its own or to sit outside your house unattended.

Travelling:

- 🐾 Secure your dog in the back of the vehicle, either with a harness attached to the seat belt, or by using a dog guard or secured travel crate.

And, finally, if your dog does go missing...

- 🐾 Don't assume he'll find his way home alone.
- 🐾 Arrange for someone to wait at home in case he returns or is returned. Ask them to phone the local dog warden and police immediately.
- 🐾 Go out and search IMMEDIATELY - enlist help if you can. Take a lead, dog treats and your mobile phone.
- 🐾 Ask someone to start phoning the local vet surgeries, rescue centres and kennels.
- 🐾 Don't give up - ask neighbours and friends to help. Put up posters in the neighbourhood, and keep in regular contact with rescue centres within a wide radius. Contact a lost dog website such as www.doglost.co.uk



*By Angela Garner, who holds a certificate
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