**LOSS PREVENTION IS KEY!!**

 **www.granitestatedogrecovery.com**

**Any newly adopted/acquired dog should be assumed to be a flight risk until proven otherwise. Please take all precautions to avoid the heartbreak, stress, and expense that are associated with the search of a lost dog.**

Before receiving your new dog, make sure that you are prepared both with the appropriate equipment for the dog and for your home. This will help to lessen anxiety both for you and your new family member.

**For the Dog:**

**ID/Restraint**:

Prior to picking up your new dog, be sure that you have an engraved ID TAG attached to the collar that you will be placing on him/her. This tag should be marked with your name, address, and phone number (preferably a cell number if that is how you are most easily reached.) ID tags that slip onto the collar rather than attaching via a metal ring are preferred (they cannot be pulled off via rough play or attachment of the leash to the improper ring). Collars with identifying information embroidered on them are also suggested.

For New Arrivals, we recommend two forms of restraint to be used simultaneously (it may seem like overkill, but we assure you that it is not!)

1. **Martingale Collar** This slip proof collar must be properly fitted in order to be effective and should not be left on dog while crated or during playtime (A properly fitted standard quick clip or buckle collar with id should be left on your on your dog at all times.
2. **Body Harness** (same As above)
3. Two Standard **(non-retractable) leashes**. One to be attached to each of the restraints used above.

Your hand should be fully inserted through the loop at the end of the leash so that you may then grasp the leash itself. A dropped leash is one of the major contributing factors to a dog going missing.

Another note on leashes: We **DO NOT** endorse the use of retractable leashes. If the worst is to happen and the leash is dropped in error and the dog runs, it is the equivalent of the dog being pursued by a loud predator hot on his/her heels.

A **microchip** is an essential part of your dog’s ID “system”. Be sure to check that your dog’s microchip has been registered with the chip manufacturer, and be sure to keep that information up to date should you move or should your phone number change. A microchip that is unregistered or lacking in current information is not useful in helping to identify a “Found” dog. Microchips can migrate under the skin. Be sure to have your vet scan for the microchip annually to confirm its’ location and accompanying information.

A microchip does not function as a GPS device. A lost dog must be found and scanned in order for the identifying information to be read.

**For The Home:**

When preparing to take your dog out for a walk, do not open the door until dog is properly leashed; under control and you have your hand firmly through the handle of the leash.

If you will be using an entry that does not have a double door (i.e. breezeway or vestibule), we strongly recommend that a baby gate be placed in front of this door. The baby gate is not to be removed until dog is double leashed, under control and ready to exit the house.

Crate: if you are expecting company, crate the dog upon your visitor’s arrival and departure. This simple step can save a great deal heartache.

**Fencing**:

If you have a fenced in yard, do not trust your new dog to be left alone in the yard. New dogs can be anxious in unfamiliar surrounds. Make sure that the fence gated is equipped with self-closing hinges (many dogs are lost when a tradesperson has left the gate open). Your gate should be equipped with a lock.

Be sure that there is not an easy means of exit under the fence. Secure any space with large rocks or cinder blocks. Ideally, fencing should be extended 1’ below grade with farm fencing/chicken wire or the like.

If you choose to use an electric fence to contain your dog, please remember that unlike a physical barrier, it does not keep predators from entering your yard, nor does it keep a dog with a high prey drive from crossing its’ boundary in pursuit of a squirrel or rabbit or the like. Batteries for your dog’s collar must be changed at suggested intervals. Please be aware that if you experience a power failure, that electricity is not being supplied to the fence. Deep snow can also prevent an electronic fence from working properly.

**Travel with your new dog:**

When traveling by car with your new dog he/she should be contained in a crate at times. If you stop for a pee break along the way, do not open the crate door until a leash is attached through the wire of the crate. Nothing is worse/more dangerous that a loose frightened dog in an unfamiliar area.

Do not assume that your dog will behave or respond to you in the same way that they do at home if you are visiting a new location. They may be anxious and an abundance of caution should be used. When in doubt keep him or her leashed.

**Contributing factors to dog loss:**

Training is key. Be sure that your dog responds to basic commands and most importantly comes when called. Good “recall” is essential to a safe dog. These basis are covered in any beginner training class and we suggest enrollment for the safety and wellbeing of both owner and dog.

. Intact dogs are more likely to wander. **Spay or neuter** your dog as soon as it is medically suggested. This will also ensure that your dog will live a longer/healthier life. Unspayed/unneutered dogs have a much higher incidence of mammary and testicular cancer.

Holidays that are celebrated with fireworks (July 4, New Year’s) are the busiest days for animal control officers. There is no need for your dog to attend these celebrations. Keep them safe an indoors with plenty of white nose (TV/radio/AC) to block the celebratory sounds.

**Be Prepared:**

Keep the number of your local **Police Department and Animal Control Officer** in an easily accessible location. Be sure to have a clear, current photo of your dog on hand. Should your dog go missing, immediately call and report to Police/Animal Control and review and follow the steps outlines in GSDR’s quick action plan found on our website:

Following the suggestion outlined above can save you heartache and anguish, and for your new dog, it may just prove to be a lifesaver! We wish you years of joy and happiness with your dog!