

## KEEPING YOUR DOG SAFE

In addition to keeping i.d. tags on your dog at all times and microchipping him/her these additional tips will help keep your dog safely with you.

### ***Use a sturdy, traditional leash***

Slip the loop of the leash over your right thumb, close your fingers tightly around loop. Use your left hand to hold the leash further down. This will keep the dog on your left and if he/she tries to bolt, you have both hands on the leash.

Retractable leashes are not recommended. Cords can burn you (or your dog) and if dropped are unsafe for the dog to drag.



### ***Use a martingale collar to prevent your dog from slipping out of his/her collar***

For added security use the martingale with a harness. We recommend Premier's Easy Walker and the SENSE-ation harnesses.

Both help prevent your dog from pulling and have a D-ring located at the chest which you can use to attach the leash too in addition to the D-ring on the martingale. Use a carabineer or coupler if the harness and collar D-rings can't be attached together with the leash alone.

### ***Do Not Allow Children to Walk the Dog***

Children should not only be old enough to understand the safety precautions, but also physically strong enough to handle the dog if he/she attempts to bolt.

### ***Teach your dog the "WAIT" command***

This will help prevent your dog from bolting out of doors.

### ***For extra security put gates or storm doors on exterior doors, preventing a dog from bolting***

Don't forget the door that leads to the garage, where the garage door may be open. If gating isn't an option, consider using an exercise pen to block escapes and provide an added layer of protection.

### ***If you have a fenced-in yard, check it on a routine basis to make sure that it is secure***

Check for digging or storm damage along the fence line regularly. If you have invisible fencing, make sure to replace the batteries on the collar and keep it charged according to manufacturer's guidelines. Also check there is no damage to underground wire. Lock your gates with a padlock to keep people from gaining access to your pet and house.

### ***Never leave a dog outside on a run alone***

Dogs can become tangled, are vulnerable to other animals, and have no ability to defend themselves. Unattended dogs have been injured or killed by other dogs and coyotes.

### ***In the car, use a crate or a dog safety harness***

Dogs allowed free run of the car are at risk after an accident if they escape. First responders are there to treat you, not your pet. [Bark Buckle Up](#) has first responder cards to place in your glove compartment and a sticker to put on the window.



### ***Make sure your vet, groomer and kennel have safeguards in place to prevent escape***

Always ask what safeguards they have in place. Don't be shy—the safety of your pet depends on it!

Look for a business that has a secure fenced area for walking dogs. Let the staff know how to use the leash/collar/harness system if used on your dog. Also, make sure they know not to use a slip lead on your dog.

### ***Shy or Fearful Dogs***

Shy/fearful dogs sometimes try to run or hide when frightened. For the dog's safety consider keeping a short lead on the dog indoors so you can quickly get the dog should it become frightened. Similarly, if your yard is fenced, keep a long (15ft.) lead on your shy/fearful dog out in the yard should you need to get the dog quickly. Always be sure to supervise dogs when wearing a lead inside or out.

### ***Purchase a GPS dog collar***

Just like GPS in a cell phone helps locate people, a GPS dog collar can help should your dog become lost.

## Top Tips for Keeping Your Dog Safe!



### **Keep Identification Tags on Your Dog at All Times**

Personal ID Tag  
Rabies Tag  
Town/City License  
Microchip Tag

If you must remove your dog's collar/harness keep a back up collar/harness with an extra set of tags attached to them.

If you use a harness in conjunction with a collar, place tags on the harness too in case the collar is removed.



### **Microchip your dog**

In combination with an ID tag, a microchip is your safest bet for getting your lost dog returned to you safely.

These tiny chips are embedded between your dog's shoulder by a veterinarian. When scanned, they can be used to identify your dog and his owner. Be sure your microchip is enrolled to you in the microchip database. Update your information with the registry if you move!



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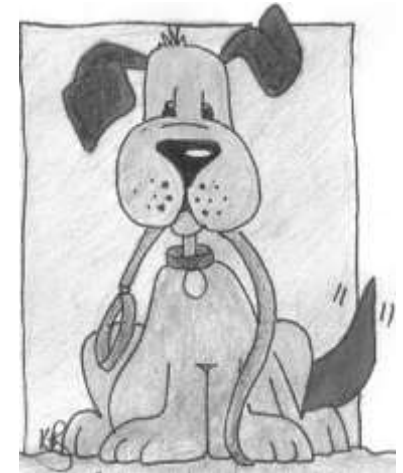
[www.twitter.com/LostDogsIL](http://www.twitter.com/LostDogsIL)

LDI is a free service provided to dog owners and Good Samaritans (finders of lost dogs).

Simply complete a lost (or found) dog form on our website or Facebook page and thousands of people throughout the state will be notified! Also use the *Resources* tab to find additional aids to assist you in locating your lost dog.



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## Tips to Prevent your Dog from Becoming Lost

Provided By:

