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POST-RETRIEVAL SAFETY TIPS

It is always a good idea to bring your dog to the veterinarian for a check and to get instructions on how to re-introduce food.

Now that your dog is safely back home there will be an adjustment period for him/her. They often need time to decompress in a quiet, safe spot, similar to the "two week shutdown" that foster dogs or newly adopted dogs need. This gives the dog the time needed to take a breather and readjust at its own pace.

Once a dog has been lost they are at a higher risk to get lost again. Below are tips to help you keep your dog safe.

SAFETY GEAR

- Use as soon as the dog is in your possession
- Dog tags on at all times
- Well-fitting, snug collar
- Martingale, no slip, collar or harness
- Two standard 6-foot leashes, or 1 with a slip lead
- Leash handles looped around wrist and held in palm
- No flexible/retractable leashes
- Microchip ASAP

TRANSPORT SAFETY TIPS

- Secure dog in crate or with restraint system
- An unsecured dog can easily step on window opener and jump out the window
- Block car door with your body as you open the door
- Get your hands securely on leashes before allowing the dog to move
- If using a garage, be sure door is completely closed before allowing dog to exit the car

INTERIOR SAFETY

- It's a good idea to have your dog trail a leash for a few weeks inside your home
- Dogs can easily run through a screen door and push out a window screen and bolt
- A door that isn't securely closed or locked can be nudged open
- Baby gates can be used to create safety barriers as long as they're not jumped
- No matter how long you have had a dog, always be mindful of people going in and out of your home, as dogs can quickly dart by someone at the door
- Doors leading from a home into a garage need to be watched closely too
- Teach a dog from Day One to sit and wait for an OK before being allowed to go through a door

OUTDOOR SAFETY

- A dog must always be securely leashed if there is no secure visible fencing
- For safety and easier control of the dog, we recommend that the dog trail a long lead while out in a fenced yard for the first few weeks to month - if a dog starts to jump a fence or dig out it's easier to stop them if they have a long lead attached
- Before letting a dog out loose in a fenced yard inspect for:
 - Any small gaps, holes or openings in the fence
 - Gates that are locked or securely closed with bungee cords
 - Anything near a fence the dog could climb on
 - Height of snowdrifts in winter
- For a few weeks or longer, your dog must never be left outside unattended, fence or not

GENERAL SAFETY

- Your dog should not visit a dog park, go hiking, visit stores, etc., until the dog has had a chance to decompress for a few weeks after being lost
- Two leashes and a collar, Martingale collar, harness or combo of that with a slip lead should always be used every time your dog is out for a walk

SAFETY GEAR EXAMPLES



Hands-Free Leash



Easy Walk Harness



Slip Lead



Martingale Collar