

NEW DOG ADOPTION SAFETY TIPS

...the risk of flight is highest at the time of adoption...

ALL NEW ADOPTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A FLIGHT RISK – especially those dogs described as “skittish”.

Confirm that all information in the microchip is correct/up-to-date and maintain the microchip from year to year.

Dog should be properly fitted with collar and leash/harness - collar ID should include dog's name and name/phone # of owner.

When traveling by car, make sure your dog is contained in a crate or secured with a leash/seat belt before opening the car door.

If you have a fenced yard, walk the perimeter and carefully inspect the fence to make sure there are no holes, gaps or areas where even a small dog can squeeze through and escape. Assure that the fence is tall enough to accommodate a large dog.

Remove any objects close to the fence that a dog can use to “launch” themselves over the fence.

Secure and latch all gates – unsecured/unlatched gates have been known to blow open in the wind or be left open by a contractor/meter reader.

Do not allow the dog off leash right away, even in a fenced yard. Never allow your dog off leash unless you are 110% sure he will return to you when called, even when distracted.

Make sure your dog is secure before opening an exterior door; e.g., put the dog on a leash, put the dog in a room behind a closed door or put the dog behind a gate or in a crate. An open door is an invitation to bolt throughout the life of any dog.

Place a note on the inside/outside of all exterior doors to remind yourself and guests to keep doors closed.

If someone else is caring for your dog, make sure they know how to enter and exit your home without the dog getting out.

Secure all windows and doors – do not leave a dog in a room with open windows/doors with screens – dogs have been known to break through screens.

Do not take a newly adopted dog out and about to new locations – allow your dog time to adjust to his new family, home and routines before taking him anywhere with you.

...PREVENTION IS KEY...

In the event that your dog escapes and gets away from you call the following for help:

Stafford Township Animal Control - 609-597-1000 x8525 (after business hours call Police)

Stafford Township Police Department - 609-597-8581

Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter – 609-978-0127

www.ilostmydog.com