



## HOW TO PREVENT ESCAPES...AND WHAT TO DO IF YOUR DOG GETS AWAY

"HELP! MY DOG'S GONE!" ALL TOO OFTEN, RESCUE AND SHELTER VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE FRANTIC CALLS FROM PEOPLE WHEN THEIR BELOVED DOG ESCAPES. EVEN IF IT HASN'T HAPPENED TO YOU, IT COULD -- SO BE PREPARED.

Despite your love for your newly adopted dog, they will probably be unsure of you and their new home at first. The people, sights and smells are all strange to them. It takes a lot of love, encouragement and patience on your part to make them feel at home. It also takes some preventative measures.

Given the right opportunity, they can't wait to escape. Why not? There are all kinds of exciting things that induce a dog to bolt, if only for an adventure or the thought of a good chase of the deliveryman, the neighbor's cat or a passing squirrel. An open door is an invitation throughout the life of the dog.

### BE PREPARED

If a pet you adopted from CPR goes missing...

Let Us Know! We can Help!

**Email** [info@carolinapoodlerescue.org](mailto:info@carolinapoodlerescue.org)

Include your name, your dog's name, where and when the pet went missing, a description of anything the pet may have been wearing, and how to contact you. Include an updated picture if possible!

Let us know in the [Carolina Poodle Rescue Family & Friends](#) Facebook group.

There are volunteers in this group who will help you with advice and by sharing your post among their networks. The best method is to make a "public" post on your own FB page with a good picture of your pet, the details of where and when he/she was lost and a way to contact you. Then share your post in this FB group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/122083703951/>) and members of this group will share it far and wide. You can always contact your Adoption Counselor, too. They can help spread the word.

## THE MOST COMMON WAYS A DOG CAN ESCAPE A HOME INCLUDE:

- \* Through an improperly latched door that blew open with a gust of wind or didn't close properly (so be sure to close doors all the way and repair doors and locks as needed);
- \* Through an open window or flimsy door or window screen on any floor of the house;
- \* Through a fence gate left open by children, trash collector or meter reader; or
- \* Over or under a fence when the right stimulus presents itself (typically something to chase or a neighbor's dog or cat).
- \* Although the risk of flight is high at the time of adoption, adopters should not relax as time goes on! Examples of when a potential escape moments throughout the life of the dog include children's/adult parties or visits, holidays, and construction, repair or delivery to the home. In short, an escape can happen on a normal day or special occasion when an adopter's attention is diverted for a second.
- \* First, make sure your dog is always wearing an **ID with your up-to-date phone numbers and address**. More and more people are using microchips to ID their dogs, and some use tattoos. However, it is still wise to keep a collar ID on dogs as well.

### If Your CPR pet has a microchip!

If your pet had a microchip while at CPR, then it is registered to CPR and we will notify you ASAP if anybody contacts us. Please email [info@carolinapoodlerescue.org](mailto:info@carolinapoodlerescue.org) if you need to update a phone number, address, etc. and we will keep your database updated. We strongly advise leaving microchip information registered to CPR because CPR's contact information will never change and many pets go missing while the owner is out-of-town or difficult to reach. CPR will ensure your pet is safe until you can be found.

If your pet had a microchip placed after their adoption, then call or logon (links below) to the microchip company for your pet's microchip and make sure the information is up-to-date. Upload a recent photo and ask them to broadcast a "lost pet" notice to your surrounding neighborhoods. If you do not have a record of the microchip information, then the vet who placed it should.

Please make sure that microchip information is good to go BEFORE a pet goes missing and that your current vet has the microchip number on file. Your pet is probably microchipped by one of these companies:

Company	Website	Phone
Home Again	<a href="http://public.homeagain.com/">http://public.homeagain.com/</a>	1-888-HOMEAGAIN (1-888-466-3242).
24PetWatch	<a href="https://www.24petwatch.com/US/lost_pet/">https://www.24petwatch.com/US/lost_pet/</a>	1-866-597-2424

\*What can you do if you're expecting visitors? The easiest thing is to safely contain the dog in his dog crate or in a separate room.

\*You can teach older children to hold a dog's collar and to put a dog in a sit/stay position at the first sign of entry or exit from the home. Children understand the concept of protecting a baby brother or sister; and they will be able to think about the dog's safety in some ways. However, adults must not expect a child can hold a dog back if the dog wants to run.

\*People presume that older dogs will not escape. In many respects, senior animals are just as much at risk, due to diminished senses. Older dogs have been known to wander off. Often they are so quiet that they are not missed right away.

\*Many people feel a dog will understand the home's or neighborhood's boundaries or the risk of a car in its path. However, most dogs run with wild abandon, and will travel farther and more quickly than you'd imagine. Dogs do not differentiate between a dirt path, driveway and a multi-lane highway, and they have no concept of danger. We hear of fortunate few returned dogs who wandered miles within a few hours. Most likely, dogs who escape and have time to travel will not be found or returned. The longer the absence is not noted, the less likely the dog will be found.

\*One of the worst times for escape are during vacations. Your pet is at risk whether you take him along on the trip, or if you leave him behind with a pet sitter or at a relative's home.

\*If you travel with your pet, "pit stops" are risky. So are campgrounds or vacation homes. If you're not sure about the use of training collars, double-leash your dog using a halter with an ID tag with your numbers on it. (It really helps to have a cell phone, and to list that number on the ID tag.) Please be aware that dogs can back out of a cloth collar even if snug against the neck!

\*If you leave your dog with a pet sitter or relative, please review your routines and safety practices.

\*Make sure you have posters and contact information ready whether you take your dog or leave him behind. It takes a second for your dog to escape. Keep in mind shelters have only a limited number of days to hold animals before they are euthanized to allow room for other strays.

## [Make An Emergency Poster As Soon As You Get Home With Your New Pet](#)

What should you do when your dog escapes? The best thing is to be prepared NOW. Create a poster or flyer with the dog's photo, his name and your phone numbers including mention of a reward. If your dog is lost, distribute it door-to-door and post wherever possible. Also have the name of local animal control and humane society phone numbers handy to give a family member, friend or neighbor to call while you search.

\*There is no safe time for off-leash walking, but that's particularly true when in a strange place. Many dogs are lost each year when people let their dogs off-leash while hiking or at the beach. The dog does not know where he

is and has less or no familiarity with the site. Don't fall for the concept that dogs seek freedom to explore. Sure, the dog may enjoy the freedom -- but he could get hurt, get in a fight with another animal, jump on or injure a passerby who may even decide to sue you. And you may never see your dog again.

## **TAKE THESE STEPS WITHOUT DELAY:**

**\* Check the immediate surroundings first, such as your yard and neighboring yards.**

**\* Enlist your neighbors in the search.**

**POST on Facebook and boost the post for your immediate area! You would be surprised how many people will respond! Carolina Poodle Rescue has a village of volunteers that will come and help search!**

**\* Contact your rescue volunteer contact immediately. Rescue volunteers will help you search and provide needed assistance.**

**\* If your dog likes car rides, drive around your neighborhood calling the dog's name, hoping that he will run from where he is and jump into the car. Just be sure that you don't call your dog into incoming traffic.**

**\*Place familiar things to your pet where they went missing such as their crate and/or favorite blanket that smells like you and a bowl of water.**

**\* Tell everyone you see you are looking for your dog and to induce the dog to enter an open garage or fenced backyard. Give everyone your dog's poster.**

**\*Put up a sign in your yard with details of your missing pet - this will notify everybody that you have a missing pet.**

**\*Notify the Emergency Vets and other vet offices in your area - Many will accept flyers. Notify nearby stores, schools and businesses.**

**\*Regularly visit local shelters and check their intakes in person. Give staff a flyer to put up. You can also keep an eye on their website, if they have one and list intakes, and can contact shelters by phone.**

**\* Sometimes it's best to pursue the dog by foot because you can go between homes and take unpredictable routes...just as your dog is likely to have done. Again, alert people as you go.**

**\* If you spot your dog, DO NOT CHASE HIM! If your dog is enjoying his adventure, he will think you are playing and will run from you. The best chance for you to safely get his attention is to stop running, drop to the ground and call your dog. If you and your dog took obedience classes and he responds to "sit/stay!", you have the added advantage of potentially stopping his escape because he remembers his training. Have enticing treats (hot dogs, chicken, bacon and dog treats)**

**\* Remember, cars are as likely to be escaped as a home. A car ride can end in disaster, because a dog will jump from a window (often dogs can slip through a narrow opening). Or an excited dog will bolt from a car when the door opens. And dogs can easily jump out of pick-up trucks. Lastly, if you own a convertible, keep the top up or leave your dog at home!**

## **Other places to notify and search online**

### **Craigslist:**

Put a post on the “lost+found” section and the “pets” of craigslist. Include a good picture of your pet, details of where and when the pet went missing. Include keywords that describe your pet in your post so that people who are searching will see your post, including likely breeds, colors, gender, age, and collar/tags and distinguishing marks.

Don't forget to search both sections on Craigslist too for someone who has found your pet!

### **Facebook Pages:**

The best approach is to make a PUBLIC posting on your personal page, then share it to pages. Look for local lost and found pages as well as lost and found pages that are popular in your state or the area in which you live. Volunteers on the Family and Friends page will be the best resource for suggestions!

### **Nextdoor:**

Nextdoor is a neighborhood-based social media. If your pet was lost in your neighborhood, join Nextdoor and you will be able to post a “lost and found” notice that will go to Nextdoor users in your neighborhood and the 5 surrounding neighborhoods. Nextdoor is not available in all neighborhoods and you must confirm that you live in the neighborhood that you join.