



## **YOUR NEWLY ADOPTED DOG**

### ***Basic Safety Precautions***

Helping to protect the safety of your newly adopted dog is our #1 PRIORITY as an organization and as individual volunteers, and the #1 risk to his/her safety is him/her getting away from you or escaping your property. Regardless of how well-socialized a dog is coming into rescue, ALL newly adopted dogs should be treated as flight risks. Even a well-socialized dog has an adjustment period in a new environment and many will find any opportunity to “bolt”. Therefore, to ensure the safety of the dog and to save you the heartache of searching for a lost dog, AAP recommends the following precautions:

- Transport your dog via crate to eliminate the possibility of a dog distracting the driver or escaping when a door or window is opened.
- Check check check to make sure you know that your newly adopted dog is secure when any exterior door or window is opened. It’s amazing how quickly a motivated dog can get from one side of the room to another when there’s an opportunity to escape!
- Consider keeping your newly adopted dog on a leash, even within a fenced yard, until you are certain there is no risk of escape.
- Sounds basic, but remember to have the loop of the leash around your wrist and then held in your hand. A startled dog can pull an unsecured leash out of your hand faster than you think.
- All dogs adopted by AAP will come to you with a martingale collar or a fitted harness. We use these because in our experience the dog cannot wiggle his/her way out of these. AAP highly recommends that you attach any leash to the collar/harness we have provided until you are confident there is no risk for escape.

Please understand that our intention is to protect the safety of your newly adopted dog. If however, your dog gets away from you or escapes, please call AAP immediately as we have a search protocol we will recommend to you and we will come and help you search until your dog is found.