



# New Dog Transition Tips

Dogs in transition are always a flight risk

All dogs need time to transition into a new environment. Even if a dog has had never been scared in the past or never run away or slipped a collar, we should always assume that it's a possibility with any dog. The best thing you can do for your new foster or adopted dog is give them time to adjust to their new environment and to not give them any opportunity to flee.

Dogs in transition can also be fearful and may use the only language they know to tell us to back off—a growl. This typically resolves as the dog starts to feel safe. Please follow the tips below until your dog feels comfortable in your home—for both your safety and the safety of your foster or adopted dog.

## THE TRIP HOME

- **DO NOT** stop for dog potty breaks on the way home from picking up your dog!
- **DO** crate the dog in the car or make sure the leash is securely tied to a structure inside the car.
- **DO** pull into your garage, if possible, and close the door before removing your dog from the car.
- **DO NOT** bring along your resident dog in the vehicle when you pick up your new foster or adopted dog.

## THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

- **DO NOT** use a standard flat collar as the only means of restraining your dog while on a leash.
- **DO** use the martingale collar or harness that was provided with your dog. If you do not have one, contact your Placement Coordinator.
- **DO** use a martingale collar and/or harness and two leashes when walking your dog (or one leash and one slip lead) and hold one in each hand for the first two weeks.
- **DO NOT** allow your dog to charge the door when people are coming and going.
- **DO** check and secure all gates and fences in your yard everytime you go out.
- **DO** caution your children and their friends about doors and gates.
- **DO NOT** give bones, rawhides or toys that the dog may feel the need to guard.
- **DO NOT** remove anything from the dog's mouth!
- **DO** trade the item for a yummy treat or wait for the dog to finish with the item.
- **DO NOT** reach for the dog's collar to move him/her.