WHAT TO DO IF YOUR DOG GETS LOOSE

THE COMEBACK PACK | ADOPTER SAFETY GUIDE

FIRST: PREVENT AN ESCAPE

• **Keep the martingale collar on at all times.** This is required by your adoption contract. Keep your Comeback Pack ID tag attached at all times, too. You may add your own tag—two contact numbers are better than one.

• **Keep a leash attached 24/7 during the transition.** For the first 1–2 weeks, let your dog drag a leash indoors until they are very comfortable and reliably come to you. For shy dogs, plan on a full month. The leash will get dirty or worn; wash or replace it. We provide an extra leash for this reason. Supervise to prevent tangling, and do not leave a dragging leash on an unattended dog.

• **Leash in hand BEFORE opening any door.** This includes your front door, back door and car doors. Secure your grip before the door opens.

• **No unsupervised backyard time for the first month.** Even a dog who seems settled may climb or jump a fence in unfamiliar surroundings. Escape skills can surprise you.

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DO NOT CHASE YOUR DOG.

• **If your dog is still nearby:** Stay calm. Sit on the ground with your body turned sideways, avoid facing or approaching them directly, and give them a chance to come to you.

• **If they run:** Do not chase, follow, whistle, or walk the neighborhood calling their name. This can frighten them and push them farther from the one familiar place: home.

• **Call or text The Comeback Pack IMMEDIATELY.** Tell us the exact location where your dog got loose, how it happened, when it happened, and the direction they were last heading. Share any new sightings promptly. We work with a professional dog trapper who can help guide a safe recovery.

• **Make home welcoming, if safe to do so.** Return home. Put out food and a familiar, cozy bed in a secure area. If our recovery team advises it and it can be done safely, leave an accessible gate open so your dog can return. Do not create an escape route for other pets or an unsafe opening.

• **Wait for instructions.** Our team and trapping partner will help coordinate next steps. Avoid organizing a search party or posting instructions for others to chase the dog.

PLEASE CONTACT US RIGHT AWAY—NO JUDGMENT.

We know these instructions may feel counterintuitive. A calm, coordinated response can make all the difference in bringing your dog home safely. Your dog's safety is our only priority.

THE COMEBACK PACK | thecomebackpack.org