

## Tips to Stop Pets from Escaping

### 1. Tag & Microchip

The first line of defense is dealing with the fact that your pet may, in fact, get out. If and when he/she does, you want to make sure the right tools are in place to ensure that your pet will be returned safely to you. While a collar with proper identification should always be worn, a microchip is your pet's best chance on the run. Shelters, veterinary hospitals, animal control and even some police stations carry microchip scanners which allow them to pull up your pet's unique ID number. A simple phone call to a national database pulls up your information, and your pet is home within hours. There truthfully isn't an excuse for *not* microchipping pets anymore; the service costs pennies a day and the chips are generally between \$20 and \$50. Want to chip? Call us.

### 2. When you go Out, Take Charge

It's important to remember that there are a lot of factors that could cause your pet to "spook" and run. Loud passing trucks, fireworks, hunter's rifles and many other distractions may cause your pet to take off, and often quite quickly. Securing your pet in a harness not only allows you to buckle him/her into your car's safety belt (the law in New Jersey), but it also doesn't allow your pet to slip out like a collar can. Harnesses also make it easy to yank your pet back if he/she is getting into danger, like being approached by an aggressive animal, or going to drink from a parking lot puddle with oil in it.

### 3. Inspect your Equipment

Would you go rock climbing with frayed ropes and worn-out harnesses? Your pet shouldn't be walked with a leash that's about to snap or with a harness with frayed edges or tired buckles. Sometimes it's just time to upgrade. Check with your local retailer... some offer a discount when you're buying your pet a replacement set (we do!).

### 4. Inspect your Property

Storms and general wear-and-tear can create openings in fences that allow your pet an escape route. Keep a watch on your boundaries to prevent a problem.

### 5. Each Pet is Different

Just like with people, pets have their own little things that make them who they are. This also means they have their little tricks to try and escape. Keep these things in mind when traveling with your pet. It only takes a second to lose a pet, but if you're aware and precautious, things should go smoothly.