

Adopt Korean Rescue: Safety Guide

LOST DOG PREVENTION

We've been involved in searches that have lasted from 6 weeks to 8 months. The average cost of a lost dog search is **\$2,000-\$5,000+**, including posters and emergency vet care. Lost dog searches also involve countless volunteer hours and sleepless nights. Sadly, many dogs never return home.

Moving to a new home or staying with a dog sitter can be a stressful experience for even the most well-adjusted dog. During this time, they are even more likely to be a flight risk. Always exercise caution! Dogs can back out of collars, contort out of harnesses, and take off running on a whim, causing you to lose your grip on the leash. Ensure everyone is well informed of your dog's safety needs, including any preferences and triggers.

OFF-LEASHING AND SUPERVISION

Dogs should **ONLY** be allowed off leash in a safe, fully fenced area while under direct supervision. Why?

- Dog theft is a real problem. Dogs are sold online for profit or used as bait dogs in dog fighting rings. **This is NOT an urban legend.** Sadly, this happens right in the GTA. NEVER leave your dog unattended outside in the yard or tied up to a post while you run in to get a coffee or use the restroom.
- Wildlife poses a significant concern. Coyotes, foxes, skunks, and hawks pose a threat to big and small dogs, even in a fenced yard. Other off-leash dogs are of concern too! If your dog is approached by an aggressive off-leash dog, you have little-to-no control of the interaction when your own dog is also off leash.
- It doesn't matter how good your dog's recall is, all it takes is a squirrel, a leaf, a sound, or an exciting scent to send your dog running for it.

GPS TRACKING

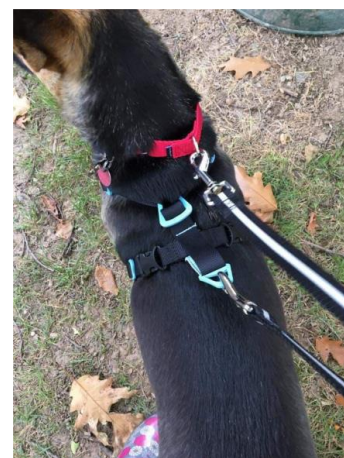
We know you're excited to take your pup on adventures, but we always recommend taking things slow. At Adopt Korean Rescue, we want our dogs to be always safe. As part of our commitment to safety, **our adopters and fosters are required to use a GPS tracking device on their dog**, which is provided at no cost. While you get to know your dog, please activate the GPS, and keep it on your dog any time they go outside, even if it's just your backyard.



DUAL LEASH WALKING

The **dual leashing system** involves attaching one leash to the D ring of a martingale collar and attaching second leash to a harness. With the dual leash system, you're protected if one system fails: if the collar breaks, the leash snaps, or the dog wiggles out of the harness, you will have an immediate backup in place.

We recommend using the dual leash system for **at least the first month**, or longer if your dog continues to exhibit flight-risk behaviours.



RETRACTABLE LEASHES

We do not allow or approve of retractable leashes. THROW THEM OUT! Why?

- They are dangerous and have resulted in many preventable lost dog scenarios and injuries to both humans and dogs including amputation and death. See the guide below on how to properly hold a nylon leash.
- When a dog is spooked by an unexpected stimulus, they may bolt. It is extremely difficult to hold on to the clunky handle of a retractable leash when this occurs. If the leash is dropped, it can result in the dog running and the retractable handle dragging behind the dog. This noise is terrifying for a dog that's already in flight-mode, causing the dog run faster and further. The leash handle may then get stuck, and the dog can get caught in a bush, tree, or fence, exposing him/her to more dangers.

HOLDING THE LEASH

Always place your hand through the loop at the end of the leash, drop your hand down in a circular motion, and then grab the main leash. Hold the slack of the leash in your other hand, creating a "U" shape from hand to hand, and have your dog walk on that side with a comfortable amount of contact. If your dog gets spooked or you fall, they will not be able to get away as the leash will still be attached to you.



EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Use a **martingale collar** for walking your dog. When fitted correctly, it is comfortable for the dog and virtually impossible to slip out of.

- Make sure the leash is attached to the collar loop – also known as the D ring – and not the ID tag ring.
- If a body harness or a head collar is used, make sure it is also secured to the martingale collar via a carabiner.
- Use a strong nylon leash. Leather leashes wear out quickly and may snap.
- Frequently examine equipment for signs of wear and tear.



Martingale Collar example

FITTING A MARTINGALE COLLAR

The proper collar position is up behind the dog's ears and not down on their shoulder blades. Please review the guide below.



A CARABINER CAN SAVE YOUR DOG'S LIFE

Although martingale collars are our preferred choice for loss prevention, we recognize that some dogs walk best on a Gentle Leader or Easy Walk Harness. While these tools can be effective at controlling pulling or managing other unwanted behaviours, they are very easy for dogs to slip out of them.

For added protection, when using these tools, use a carabiner to connect the martingale collar to the Easy Walk Harness or Gentle Leader. This way, if the dog manages to slip out of any of these tools, your leash will still be attached to the harness via the martingale collar. You may need to use a smaller sized carabiner if the regular size is too heavy.



Easy Walk harness attached to collar via carabiner



Dog slips out of Easy Walk harness, but remains leashed via martingale collar

THINGS THAT MAY CAUSE YOUR DOG TO BOLT

Prevention is key! Please be fully engaged and alert while walking with your dog, and do not text or talk on your phone. Below are some scenarios that may cause your dog to bolt. This is not an exhaustive list, and every dog is different. **All dogs are at risk of bolting and AKR is not liable or responsible if a dog escapes**

- Busy roads
- Other dogs
- Police horses
- Garbage/recycling bins and trucks
- Construction sites
- Large trucks
- Wildlife (cats, squirrels, coyotes, etc.)
- Emergency vehicles
- Sandwich boards or flags on windy days
- Skateboarders, cyclists, or baby strollers
- Scent of food or garbage
- Loud noises (alarms, fireworks, thunder, etc.)
- Kids playing at the park

BACKYARD SAFETY

If you allow your dog access to your backyard, please do not leave them unattended.

- ✓ Ensure the fence in good condition and all gates are securely locked. Perform these safety checks each time you let your dog into the yard. Wildlife, storms, and strong winds can cause fences to blow over or gates to open.
- ✓ For flight-risk dogs, consider using a 15-20ft. long lead for added safety during outdoor play time in the yard.
- ✓ Ensure patio furniture is not stacked against a fence. The dog can use it to climb over it.

INDOOR SAFETY

- ✓ Be aware of open windows, doors, and screened windows and doors during the warmer months.
- ✓ Leash, crate, or secure the dog in another room before opening any door.
- ✓ Consider using a baby gate for the main entryway and patio doors so when you open the door, your dog isn't at risk of bolting out.

CAR SAFETY

Car travel is one of the top ways pets go missing. Always use a harness and seatbelt or a crate when transporting your dog in the car.

- ✓ Never attach a seatbelt to the dog's collar and never allow your dog to ride in the front seat. Both situations can result in fatal injuries in the event of an accident.
- ✓ When you put your dog in the car, **do not let go of the leash** until your dog is secured with the seatbelt.
- ✓ When taking your dog out of the car, ensure the leash is secured around your wrist BEFORE unclipping seatbelt. See How-To Guide on Page 2.



DOG PARK SAFETY

- ✓ **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK**
- ✓ Never bring a skittish, fearful or anxious dog to a dog park
- ✓ Ensure your dog is consistently responsive to obedience commands such as *come*, *sit*, *stay*, and *leave it*. This will help you control your dog.
- ✓ Choose parks with a double-gated entry, secure fencing, and rules of conduct.
- ✓ Examine the entire perimeter of the park before you enter for potential escape routes. Be aware that not everyone closes the gate when entering/exiting.
- ✓ Observe how other dogs are playing in the park before bringing your dog inside.
- ✓ Keep your dog's vaccines and parasite preventives up to date.

DOG PARK SAFETY (CONT.)

- ✓ An off-leash dog park is not a place to test your dog's temperament or friendliness around other dogs or people for the first time. Before visiting a dog park, test your dog's reactivity in a more controlled environment such as leashed walks, small playdates, or a friend visiting your home.
- ✓ Learn canine body language and be ready to intervene. Knowing the difference between play and aggression in dogs can be lifesaving.
 - A playful dog bounces around, wags their tail, and generally looks relaxed both in posture and facial expression.
 - A dog that is showing aggression often has a stiff stance, raised hackles, a closed mouth and is hyper-focused.

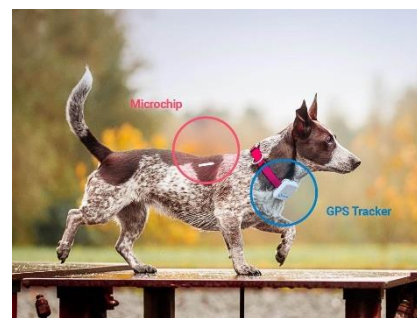
FIREWORK SAFETY

On occasions when fireworks may be going off, take special safety precautions.

- ✓ NEVER allow your dog access to the backyard unless secured on the leash.
- ✓ Always use the **dual leash system** when walking your dog, even if they're not normally a flight-risk. Fireworks are scary!
- ✓ Take special care to ensure your dog is wearing their GPS when going for a walk.
- ✓ Walk your dog before dusk to reduce the chances of hearing fireworks.
- ✓ Ensure all doors and windows are secured. A dog can easily break through screen doors and windows or jump fences when spooked by fireworks.
- ✓ Do NOT force your dog to go outside.

MICROCHIP

A microchip is an electronic form of ID and is NOT a GPS tracker. The microchip contains a unique identifier that corresponds to your contact details in a central database. This means that while it cannot be used to locate your dog, should someone find them, the microchip can be scanned at a vet's office or animal control and reunite you.



A microchip is only as good as the information attached to it. When your furry friend first comes home from Korea, please update your dog's microchip data to ensure it can be properly identified at **24PetWatch**: www.24petwatch.com or **1.866.597.2424**. Additionally, make sure to register your dog with your local municipality.

HEARTWORM PREVENTION

MANDATORY: Although all dogs are tested for heartworm before they leave S. Korea, they must continue to receive Advantage Multi or NexGard Spectra heartworm preventive medication for 12 continuous months following their import to Canada. Please have your vet provide it to you on your first visit.

Advantage Multi and NexGard Spectra provide extra protection for vulnerable dogs and must be given for 12 continuous months following their arrival. The difference between Advantage Multi and other preventives is that Advantage Multi kills any possible, lingering heartworm eggs that may be in the dog's system.

Heartworm disease, or dirofilariasis, is a serious and potentially fatal disease, and it occurs all over the world. In the United States, the highest numbers of reported cases are still within the southeastern US, but it has been detected in all 50 states. Dogs living in the southeastern states along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico seaboards are particularly at risk. Studies show that untreated dogs in these areas have a 45% chance of developing heartworm disease.

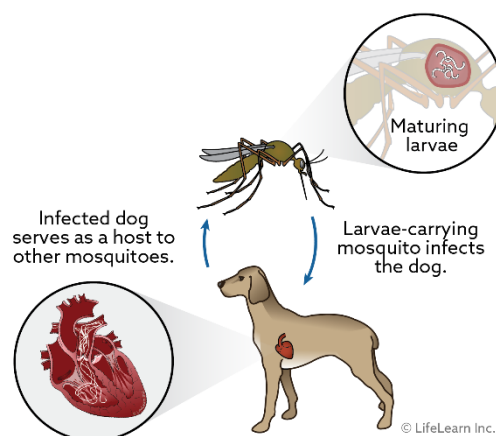
In Canada, the disease is problematic in areas where mosquitoes are prevalent, such as along waterways and coastlines in many provinces. Affected regions include southern British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick.

How is heartworm disease spread?

Heartworms are a parasitic worm transmitted from one dog to another by mosquitoes. When a mosquito bites a dog with the disease, it sucks up microscopic baby heartworms. When the infected mosquito then bites another dog, those baby heartworms are injected into victim and continue developing.

Within 2-3 months, the heartworms reach larva stage and are mature enough to work their way from the dog's bloodstream into the tissues, eventually reaching the heart where they stay and grow up to 12" long.

The lifespan of a heartworm is 5-7 years. As the adult heartworms grow and multiply, they start also invading the big blood vessels going to the lungs.



What do heartworms do to dogs?

Heartworms congest and inflame the area, damaging the blood vessel walls. The scarred blood vessels lose elasticity and become narrower, causing an increase in blood pressure. Pneumonia may occur because of the lung inflammation. Eventually, the blood pressure gets higher than the heart can pump against, resulting in heart failure. They may also affect the kidneys or the liver through damaging effects of the body's reaction to them being in other vessels in the body.

It usually takes several years before dogs show clinical signs of infection. Dogs of any age, breed or sex may be affected. Unfortunately, by the time clinical signs are seen, the disease is usually well advanced. One dog may have as many as 300 worms present when diagnosed.

The signs of heartworm disease can depend on the location of the worms, the length of time the worms have been in the dog, and the degree of damage that has been sustained by the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. Even low numbers of worms can cause signs of severe heartworm disease.

How is heartworm disease treated?

Heartworm treatment is highly effective in dogs whose heartworm disease is caught early. Unfortunately, treatment is expensive and very painful for the dog. Complications can also occur during treatment, including a 1-3% death rate. Treatment requires careful medical care and complete inactivity afterwards for at least 30 days.

How can I prevent my dog from getting heartworm disease?

You can prevent your dog from getting heartworms by using a **heartworm preventive**. With the safe and affordable heartworm preventives available today, no pet should ever have to endure this dreaded disease.

Heartworm preventives work by killing any baby heartworms in the dog's bloodstream. Since it takes 2-3 months from the time of a mosquito's bite until the baby heartworms are mature enough to leave the bloodstream as juveniles, monthly heartworm preventatives are highly effective.

The monthly preventive, however, is not effective against adult heartworms or juveniles. So if even one monthly dose is missed (or if your dog spits or vomits it out without you noticing), it could be too late by the time the next dose is given. It usually takes many months for physical symptoms of heartworm disease to appear. Without an annual blood test to check for heartworms, you will not be aware your dog is infected until the disease has progressed so far that treatment may not be effective, and your dog could die.

Keep your Dog on Heartworm Prevention

From a financial point of view, this is certainly smart since an annual heartworm test (~\$50) plus a year's worth of preventive (~\$500) is significantly cheaper than a course of heartworm treatment, which can cost over \$2,000 depending on the severity of the case. In addition, keeping your dog heartworm-free will lessen the likelihood of other dogs in your home and neighbourhood contracting the disease from a "shared mosquito."



Use your calendar to remember to give your dog their heartworm preventive **on the same day every month**.

Learn more about Heartworm Disease: www.heartwormsociety.org/resources

FLEA AND TICK PREVENTION

Fleas and ticks can cause two specific problems. One, they can cause discomfort and skin irritation through their bites, and in some cases can cause severe allergic reactions in both pets and people. Two, they both can carry diseases and can cause illness both in pets and people. Some of these diseases can be deadly and others can cause severe, chronic, and lifelong illness. Prevention is key to avoid these problems.

Prevention is also important because both fleas and ticks can infest the home. Because they have different life cycles, treating an infestation is much more difficult (and costly) than preventing an infestation.

What kinds of illnesses can fleas and/or ticks cause?

Fleas and ticks can transmit many infectious diseases when they take a blood meal from either pets or people. The most common flea of North America can transmit murine typhus, flea-borne spotted fever, cat-scratch disease (bartonellosis), and flea tapeworms. Other flea species can transmit salmonellosis, plague, rodent tapeworm, murine trypanosomiasis, dwarf tapeworm. Fleas in general can transmit hemoplasmosis and tularemia.

Each tick species is known to transmit specific infectious diseases, including but not limited to the following: Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, rickettsiosis, tularemia, cytauxzoonosis, and hepatozoonosis. Lyme disease is becoming more and more prevalent

If you are serious about keeping fleas off your dog, don't bother with flea collars, flea shampoos, sprays, or the cheap topical ointments you can buy at grocery stores. These

may somewhat help reduce flea infestations but are not truly effective as a preventive. The products that provide real protection for your pet and your home are listed below. Liquid topicals eliminate 98-100% of the fleas within 12-18 hours, then have a residual effect for a month afterwards, even after swimming or bathing.

- **Topical flea products:** Activyl®, Advantage® II, Cheristin®
- **Oral flea products:** Capstar®, Comfortis®, Sentinel® (growth regulator only)
- **Topical tick products:** Preventic® (dogs only)
- **Topical combination products:** Frontline®, K9 Advantix® II (dogs only), Bravecto®, Revolution®, Seresto® (collar), Vectra 3D® (dogs only), Effipro® Plus, Effitix® (dogs only)
- **Oral combination products:** NexGard®, Simparica™, Credelio®, Bravecto®, Trifexis®

6 Places Ticks May Hide on Your Pet

What to look for

To find a tick, feel for lumps or bumps and look for areas that appear irritated.

Regularly check your dog for ticks after all outdoor playtime and walks, even if your pet is on a preventative.

A deer tick is about the size of a sesame seed.



Some species of ticks are no bigger than a grain of sand.



Ticks are drawn to dark, moist areas on the body like:

- 1 under the collar
- 2 under the tail
- 3 inside the groin area
- 4 between the toes
- 5 under the front legs
- 6 elbow

And even on your dog's eyelids!