



Escape Proofing Tips



High Risk Moments

These are the moments dogs are most likely to bolt:

- Arrival Day
- First Potty Break
- First Walk
- Visitors Coming/Going
- Kids Opening Doors
- Garage Doors Opening
- Unloading the Car
- You coming/going
- Loud noises (mowers, leaf blowers, hair dryers, etc.)



Fearful dogs bolt silently – not loudly.

Door Safety

- Install baby gates at all exterior doors. & use a 2-gate system. Make sure the 1st is closed/locked before opening the other.
- Keep sliding doors locked; fearful dogs can nose them open.
- Use visual barriers (curtains, frosted film) to reduce door-charging.

Home Entry & Exit Safety

- Doorway Safety – Teach “wait,” use baby gates, block visual access to open doors.
- Use a double-gate system if possible (entry door → interior gate → home).
- Hang a sign: “Dog in decompression – open doors slowly.”





Yard & Fence Safety

Fearful dogs will work to escape the environment of fear. It can be surprising how easily they can open doors, latches, etc. In addition, dogs of all sizes can fit through spaces smaller than you would think. And fearful dogs can often scale even a 6-foot fence!

- Check for gaps, loose boards, low spots, climb points.
- Block under-fence dig spots with bricks or landscape timbers.
- Check and repair loose fence latches.
- Consider using a fence barrier (Amazon, Home Depot, etc.)



Car Safety



- Double Leash
- Use crates or seatbelts
- Never open the car door until the dog is fully secured.

Leash & Harness Safety



- Double-leash new arrivals (one on harness & one on collar).
- Use a Martingale collar for fearful or flight-risk dogs.
- Avoid retractable leashes – they cause bolt-and-run incidents.

