

ADOPTER CHECKLIST – Lost Dogs Team



Congratulations on adopting your new family member!

While we know this is an exciting time for you, we would like to remind you that your pet is considered a **HIGH FLIGHT RISK**.

This is the reality of adopting a puppy mill survivor. Dogs **can and will** get lost either through accidents, carelessness, or just sheer genius on the part of a dog. Mill dog survivors have additional issues that make them high flight risks. They can be terrified of and by almost anything and will bolt at noises, unexpected movements, visual stimuli, storms, or people. You think you know what “terrified” and “bolt” mean....but you cannot appreciate the suddenness and the violence of it until you’ve seen it happen. As the caregiver for your pet, it is your job to protect them. You cannot protect them from the environment and the noises and movements that it produces, but you are responsible to do everything you can to protect them from themselves, their own fears, and the consequences of the lives they led prior to coming to NMDR.

National Mill Dog Rescue’s **Lost Dogs Team** analyzed the reasons for dogs getting lost in the past and developed the following list of both home security precautions and product recommendations to help prevent this from happening to you and your new family member. Ask for help if you are having difficulties training your dog! We have resources available to provide guidance, home-assessment, and training.

SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

- Even though your fence situation has been approved, use a leash on the dog within your fenced area until you know for certain that the dog will be contained. NEVER leave a dog unsupervised while it is on a leash!
- Periodically check your fence/gate situation.
- If your fence has a gate accessible to the public, please consider installing a locking or child-proof mechanism to prevent the opening by passersby. Also consider purchasing and hanging a sign asking that the gate be left closed (for meter reader situations).
- Don’t get complacent. While your dog may act perfectly calm one minute, he/she can bolt the next.
- Use a martingale collar/leash system. It may be advisable to also use a combination of collar and harness and then run the lead from the collar through the harness.
- Immediately put a personalized ID tag on your pet.
- Maintain the microchip registration. The current registration is good for approximately one year after the dog was chipped. The registration fee will need to be maintained by you.
- If you need to have someone watch your pet, please provide them these instructions as well as the completed **NMDR Dog Sitter Information** form.
- One of the primary reasons dogs go missing is because of children not taking the necessary steps to latch/close gates. If you have children in your household or neighborhood, please educate them about the flight risk situation.

- Preparedness is the key. While you don't want to think about the possibility of your dog going missing, you also don't want to spend valuable time creating flyers when you want to be out looking if the situation happens. Prepare a **Lost Dog Kit** now to have ready in case this happens. You will need:
 - Updated photos of your dog (headshot and full body).
 - The dog's information from the folder you receive.
 - Create a poster and set of handouts.
 - Save this information on your computer so you will be ready in the event of an emergency.

PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

Some products are available for sale here at our facility. All proceeds not only benefit NMDR but help support the efforts of our Lost Dogs Team which will provide you guidance and support should your dog go missing.

ALL PUPPY MILL SURVIVORS ARE HIGH FLIGHT RISKS!

	Available	Adopter Cost
TAGG Pettracker System (GPS tracking system)	www.pettracker.com	\$179
Roameo GPS System (alternative system)	www.gpsdogcollartracking.com	-
Pet Barrier (to prevent escape through the opening of an exterior door)	NMDR	\$45.00
Personalized ID Tag	Petco or any pet products store	~\$10.00
Collar Bell (small dog)	NMDR	~\$5.00
Thundershirt – to help with anxiety (thunderstorms, fireworks)	www.thundershirt.com	~\$40
Collar Blinker (light)	NMDR	~\$6.00
Martingale Collar / Leash	Petco or any pet products store	~\$20.00
Harness – snug fitting	Petco or any pet products store	Varies
Car Seat Harness System	Petco or any pet products store	Varies
Edge Pins - 10" long at Pioneer Sand Co. (prevents digging under/lifting up a fence)	Pioneer Sand Co	.20 a piece
Pen Cover (to protect small dogs from predators/birds of prey). Can use mesh plastic construction fencing.	Varies	Varies
Gate locking or child-proof mechanism	Varies / Hardware stores	Varies
Gate sign – Dog in Yard – Keep Gate Closed	Hardware or pet products stores	Varies
Pet Emergency First Aid Kit	Pet products stores	
NMDR Puppy Mill Survivor Bandana	NMDR	\$5.00

If your dog gets lost immediately call (719) 445-6787.