



A Message to Rescues, Fosters and New Adopters

This may ruffle some feathers, but it needs to be said:

We all must do better at preparing dogs for adoption AND preparing adopters/ fosters to keep them safe.

Too many escapes and too many tragedies that are completely preventable are happening too frequently.

Far too often the system is a “get them in and get them out” protocol. But dogs, especially those coming from the streets, hoarding situations, or unstable environments, need time, structure, and support before being placed in homes. Humans need the same guidance.

And increasingly, we're seeing home checks not being done at all.

A few simple preventative steps before placement that can stop dogs from getting out of homes, yards, or vehicles.

We also hear, “The info is in the adopter packet.” And while that's great, let's be honest: most excited families are not going to read an entire packet before bringing a new dog home. This responsibility starts with the rescue clearly and thoroughly preparing adopters and continues with adopters following through. Suggestion, before adoption send adopters a simple behavior pdf to read and sign off on BEFORE adoption.

These dogs are scared. They don't yet trust you.

They will take ANY opportunity to bolt.

They need time to acclimate, to learn the routine, to learn you, and to feel safe.



Sunni's Animal Missions Preventative Safety Steps

For all rescues, fosters new adopters, and foster homes:

Transport Safety



- Small dogs: Crated and carried into the home.
- Larger dogs: Seat-belted, tethered to a harness, or crated and carried into the home.

Proper Equipment

- Martingale collar with a leash
- Slip lead as a backup
- OR carabiner attaching the martingale to the harness
-  No Walks or Adventures Yet
- Potty breaks only, using a leash + slip lead, for 1–2 weeks.

- No visitors for a few days, give them time to bond & trust you

- No hikes, stores, parks, neighborhood walks, or public outings
- No visitors for a few days, give them time to bond and trust you and learn where home is