

Summer 2017

The  
**VIRGINIA**  
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# DOG

Volume 8 • Issue 2

## Providing Love when it's Needed Most

Tips for a Great Summer  
Road Trip with Your Dog

Murmurs of the Heart

*"Rocco"* is seeking a forever home.  
He is available for adoption through  
the Middleburg Humane Foundation.

(details on Page 46)



# More Summer Safety Tips For Dogs— and Their Owners!

*By Anne Wills*



(rounding up rover)

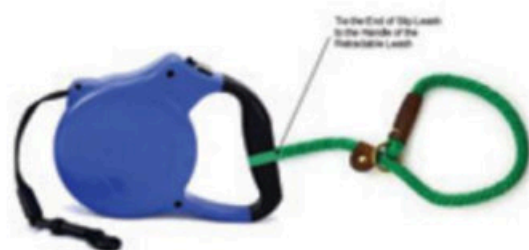
Photo courtesy of Anne Wills

Summer is a great time for outdoor fun with our pets. Here is a list of some simple, yet useful tips to ensure that your pets stay safe during the summer months.

### **"My dogs collar broke or slipped off my dogs neck."**

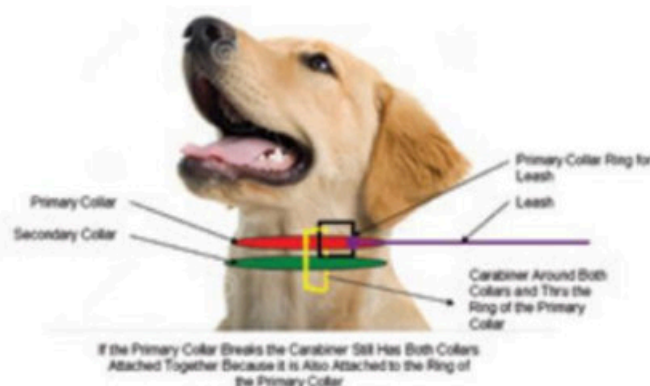
By simply adding a second collar and clipping the two of them together with a carabiner, and then attaching the leash to one of them, this process gives pet owners a safety net. If the first collar breaks open or slips over a dogs' head, the second collar kicks in because the two collars are attached together.

Along the same lines as a second collar, especially if you are using a retractable leash, take a slip lead and shorten it to be about 6 inches long. Tie it to the loop of the handle of the leash. Slip this over the wrist. If a dog pulls the retractable out of the pet owner's hand, the secondary loop gives the pet owner a chance to grab the leash and keep the dog under control.



### **"My dog got scared by another dog while we were walking."**

Avoid the meet-and-greet. First, other dogs may not be dog friendly. Dogs can break out into a fight in a split second. They also could be ill. These dogs need to be walked too, even if sick—however, this puts pups at risk. Be diligent in checking your walking path for any loose dogs. This could be a risk for disaster. If a dog is in a pet owner's walking path, move to the other side of the street until the other dog passes. Don't risk the chance of an accident.



### **"Fido has gotten loose, now what?"**

Pet owners should resist the urge to chase their dogs. If a dog gets loose, pet owners should stay calm, get onto the ground and gently call their dog's name. If a pet owner has treats, offer them. Pet owners should let the dog come to them. Do not scream the dog's name. The more excitable that the pet owner becomes, there is more risk of scaring away the dog. A dog will easily switch into flight mode. If a dog starts to walk away from the pet owner, the owner should turn away from the dog and make it a game of come follow me.

Warmer weather lends itself to walks in the woods, taking a dip in a nearby creek and playing fetch with a favorite ball. These outdoor activities also include distractions of other animals like squirrels, deer, and ducks that will be out enjoying the weather, too. Thus, pet owners should not let their dogs off their leashes to run free. In a split second, a dog could be chasing one of these critters, and pet owners could have difficulty catching the dog. A simple long leash, about 25-feet long, is more than enough freedom for a dog to enjoy the outdoors while staying safely attached to you.





If the worst happens, and a dog is gone, these are the actions that pet owners should take immediately:

- 1 Post fliers at all of the intersections within a three-mile radius of where the disappearance occurred
- 2 Post notices on Facebook, Craigslist, other social media sites, and neighborhood websites
- 3 Look into doing a Findtoto.com phone call alert. This website promises to call all phones in the area with an emergency alert describing the lost dog and how to contact the pet owner
- 4 Immediately report the lost dog to all nearby shelters. Then, go visit those shelters every three days
- 5 Call local pet-search organizations for help. A canine search and rescue team can be sent out to follow the lost dog's footsteps to see where the dog has gone. Then, an action plan can be started. One last precautionary tip: Make a scent article for a dog in case a search-dog team is deployed. While wearing gloves, take a damp clean washcloth and wipe the dog with it. Let this washcloth dry completely. With gloves on, put it into a zip lock bag and label it with the pet's name. A search dog needs to be cued as to what smell to look for. Having a pure scent article eliminates any other smell on an item that may also be on the ground outside.

These simple safety tips should help to insure hours of fun in the sun for dog owners and their pets. 🐾

For more information:

DogsFindingDogs@gmail.com,  
and search for Dogs Finding Dogs  
on Facebook.

All donations are tax deductible.

## VETERINARY EMERGENCIES

### When Does Your Pet Need Urgent Care?

- Severe Bleeding or Bleeding for over 5 min.
- Bleeding from Nose, Mouth, Rectum, Coughing Up Blood or Blood in Urine
- Difficulty Breathing
- Continuous Coughing or Gagging
- Inability to Urinate or Pass Stool
- Eye Injuries
- Hit by a Motor Vehicle
- Seizures - Staggering - Unconsciousness
- Severe Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Fractured Bones or Severe Lameness
- Signs of Pain, Discomfort and/or Anxiety that concerns you
- Over Exposure to Heat/Cold - Heatstroke or Hypothermia
- Ingestion of a Poison, Toxic or Foreign Object
- Refusal to Drink for 24 hours
- Any combination of the above signs

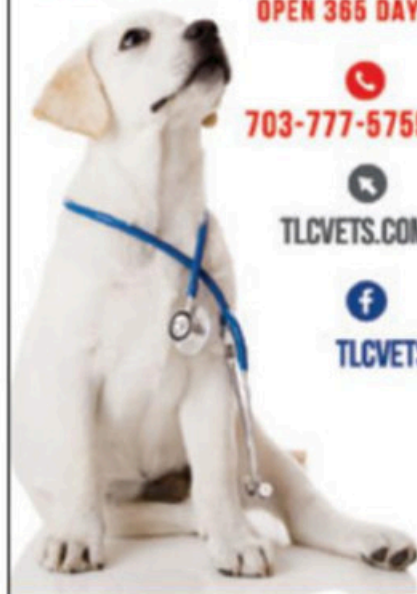
OUR LIST DOES NOT COVER ALL EMERGENCIES

! Please Consult a Veterinarian Anytime  
You Have Concerns about Your Pet(s) Health!



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