



# Fearful Dog Safety

-We do require that all fearful dogs leave foster home with a martingale collar fitted properly. If you do not know what that is, here is a video explaining why it is more safe than a standard flat buckle collar the dogs can slip out of. Most dogs can also easily slip out of a harness, and harnesses provide little to no control.

<https://youtu.be/QYnk1JjFX4E>

-Get a name tag with your address and phone number right away or write on collar with sharpie marker your information until you have a tag made.

-Do not bring your new dog anywhere if it's fearful around new people or anywhere besides close to your house for about 2 weeks. Immediate family bonds with your dog before anyone else. Avoid having people come over to meet new dog. As much as it makes the humans happy, it's scary for the dog who trusts so few people already. The First 2 Weeks guideline-

<https://youtu.be/KkNKMY2L80g>

-Fearful dogs should not go on any outings or highly populated areas for at least 2 weeks. Socialization is crucial but it's more important to wait a few weeks before overwhelming your dog. Walking around the neighborhood is great for the first 2 weeks.

-Do not let people try to pet or bend down or interact with your dog if it is fearful. Dogs respond way better to people who respect his or her body language and don't put them under pressure by approaching and reaching out. If dog moves towards person for affection then that's fine to touch or offer food.

\*\*\*\*Door safety\*\*\*\*

-Use a baby gate in the home to block any doorways that are often used especially to any Unfenced areas. This is mandatory if there are children under 10 in the home who can potentially open or close doors

-A reminder sign should also be put on door to make sure door is closed tightly and that dog is no where near door when opening or closing. Maybe even a stop sign image for children who can't read. (Sign below to print out)

-Put an additional hook eye type lock on front door that kids can't reach

-Teach the BACK command immediately.

Forget sit and stay. Teach the dog to MOVE AWAY from doors when they are opened

<https://youtu.be/sA5R9dxNBEM>

<https://youtu.be/zjHkKOlgE8g>

<https://youtu.be/pTV376QopIM>

<https://youtu.be/-KwYbroswak>

-Don't let fearful dogs follow behind you when approaching doorways. Turn into them and use your body to back them up at least 6-8 feet from door when it opens.

-Do not use any type of tether outside or ever leave unattended in yard for a few months.

-Register microchip immediately and keep Sophie's circle on there too.

-Never take collar off. A dog is perfectly happy, comfortable, and safe with a collar and name tags 24/7.

-Leave leashes dragging inside and outside even in a fenced yard for first 2 weeks. Yes they will get stuck on stuff and pee on them but safety is top priority. If dog gets spooked, it's way easier to grab a flowing leash than a dog. Step on leash if you can not grab it.

-Never ever ever chase your dog if it runs off. Either get on ground and attempt to call or lure to safety (Any fenced area)

-Do not drive with car window opened and have safety lock in car. Use a seatbelt tether preferably the one that attaches to head rest so dog is safe and not moving around in car.

-Fearful dogs need more guidance than any other dogs. Be a strong leader. Master obedience commands with and without distractions. You have to be more valuable than anything else. Coddling and excessive affection makes dogs insecure and not less fearful. You get what you pet. Pet a dog when it is afraid, and dog will be more afraid.

-Practice recall using a long lead as often as possible. At least 10x a day. Say name and COME and guide towards you with long lead. Reward

-Most fearful dogs won't take food when fearful

-Remember that when a fearful dog gets loose it will not react rationally. It will be fight or flight. Your job is to make sure that never happens. Loose dogs run right into traffic and get hit.

-Get a FI gps collar  
<https://tryfi.com>

We highly recommend you follow at least 85% of this to help build a strong foundation. We see on a daily basis what happens when people bring dogs in and give them too much freedom or are careless with their safety. It may seem strict, but please put faith in us that we always do what is in the best interest of dogs and their new families.

The first 2 weeks

<https://youtu.be/KkNKMY2L80g>

If you need help with training for your fearful dog, or just a dog that has trouble listening and has unwanted behaviors, please contact me at  
[www.looseleashesdogtraining.com](http://www.looseleashesdogtraining.com)

You can also see many video on how to build confidence in fearful dogs on my YouTube channel Dana Conway



**WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO APPROACH A FEARFUL DOG?**

**Don't-**

**Myth**  
Reach your hand out to the dog for it to smell

**Myth**  
Look at him and talk to him with a sweet baby voice

**Truth**

When meeting a fearful dog the best thing to do is to not meet them at all. Completely ignore the dog, do not make any eye contact, and do not put out your hand. You can sit down on the ground but look away and totally ignore. If the dog comes towards you you can put your hand out but ONLY if the dog moves towards you. If a fearful dog moves backwards or behind its human it automatically loses all of its trust in you and it's owner if you try to approach it. What seems kind to you, is threatening to the dog.  
Not all dogs see touch and talk as affection.

*Dogs do speak, but only to those who know how to listen*



**Please make sure DOG is not  
close to door upon opening**

