

THE ESCAPE ARTIST

Has your dog shown the ability to escape confined areas? Dogs that escape through doors or enclosures are often searching for people, animals, food, or fun! However, some dogs that escape suffer from separation anxiety. If your dog shows signs of separation anxiety when you are not home (chews, barks, or breaks out of crates), please seek guidance from HSHA's Behavior Team, your veterinarian, or a dog behaviorist.

STEPS TO TAKE:

- I. **Keep your dog in a reliable fence when outside.** Check all areas of the fencing before letting your dog outside without a leash. Do not use an invisible fence for a dog that tries to escape.
- II. **Supervise your dog at all times when he/she is outside.** DO NOT let your dog out of your sight.
- III. **Keep your dog leashed at all times when off your property.** Use a slip lead or a secure collar such as a martingale to keep your dog safe.
- IV. **Teach your dog to sit and stay at doors.** Be extremely cautious of going in and out of doors until your dog shows you respect and is well trained. Teach all people residing in the home to do the same.
- V. **Lock windows and doors when you are not home.** Make sure that all screen doors have a lock. A smart dog will figure out how to open them. Do not let your dog alone with only a window screen confining them.
- VI. **Provide your dog with enrichment when you leave.** Try stuffed KONGS, durable chew bones, or toys. Do not let your dog alone with a rawhide. They can be a choking hazard.
- VII. **Exercise your dog before leaving him/her alone.** *Remember, a tired dog is a good dog!*
- VIII. **Purchase an I.D. tag for your dog.** It should include your contact information and your dog's name.
- IX. **When traveling in a vehicle, secure your dog in a crate or attached to the seat using a leash or traveling seat belt made especially for dogs.**

If you have behavioral questions you would like to discuss, please contact HSHA's Behavior Team at (717)564-3320 ext.118 or see the list of area dog trainers.



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