

Flight Risk

Flight risk dogs must be managed safely until the root of the escaping behaviour is understood and modified. These measures include:

- Ensuring your dog wears a secure collar (i.e. Martingale collar) and possibly a front-clip harness as back-up, attaching a leash to each for two points of contact on walks)
- No off-leash walking
- No dog parks
- Securely fenced yard
- Monitoring exits in the home, ensuring the dog cannot bolt out
- Monitoring exits in the car, ensuring the dog cannot bolt out
- Using safe and suitable method of confinement/containment when unsupervised (a certified trainer can assist in determining the most appropriate set up for a specific dog's needs)
- Supervising the dog when not confined
- Keeping a leash on the dog inside the house
- Providing supplementary environmental enrichment (i.e. Adaptil, calming music, etc.) and other forms of enrichment such as stuffed Kongs, a variety of toys, etc.



As well as preventing flight risk opportunities, the owner can work on stabilizing the dog in their new home and lessening their anxiety. Building a bond of trust is key, so the dog learns over time that they can depend on you and stay by you rather than bolt when they feel anxious.

You can start by teaching your dog to focus on you rather than distractions around them, including the sources of their concern.

Gradual confinement training can be very helpful in calming a nervous dog, as well as gradual acclimatization to their new surroundings and, in particular, the situations they fear.

If you have identified particular triggers for your dog's escape behaviour, you can work on exposing them indirectly to the thing they fear (e.g. playing a recording of thunder or sirens at very low volume in small increments, over time building up their tolerance to the noise).

In some cases, the dog may remain a permanent flight risk, due to their temperament and history, in which case ongoing management will be required to prevent escaping opportunities.

