THE CANINE ESCAPE ARTIST

Some dogs have escape behaviors, which can be very dangerous. They can be hit by cars, fight with other dogs or be injured or hurt in other ways. Dogs that are not spayed or neutered run the risk of breeding and bringing more unwanted puppies into the world.

How do dogs escape?
- Jump fences
- Dig under fences
- Figure out how to open fence gate
- Chew through the fence

Why do they escape?

Fear-related behaviors
- They try to get away from whatever scared them (cars, garbage trucks, gun shots)

Separation Anxiety
- Many dogs become anxious or nervous when left alone, even when there are other pets
- They can become destructive, bark excessively, have accidents and/or escape the yard
- Most of the time they do not go far and are often found by the owner, sitting at the front door waiting for them to get home

Sexual Roaming
- Intact males will travel far to find a female in heat
- Neutered males with a history of escapes prior to being neutered often continue to escape due to the learned behavior

Socialization & Boredom
- If the dog has more “fun” when he escapes the yard, he will not want to stay in the yard because there is less to do (neighbors feeding him, petting him etc.)
- Dogs who receive little attention from their owners tend to do this

Preventing Escape
- Make appropriate modifications to your fence
- Address the reason for escape
- No-jump harness prevents jumping
- Buy wire / chain link fence to put on the ground to prevent digging
- Do not leave your dog unattended outside

Punishment
- Use only when caught in the act of escaping
- Make loud noises or squirt with a garden hose
- Punishment will only be effective if they are caught off-guard
- Punishment alone will not resolve the problem
- You must give the dog less reason to escape
- Call a professional animal behaviorist to help if you are unable to do it on your own