



## Walking Group Safety Guidelines

### Martingale Collars

Proper fit...

Slip the Martingale Collar over the dog's head. Pull the collar up right behind the ears of the dog. This is the point you want to adjust the collar to because this is the point right before the collar slips over the head. When you pull up on the D-ring, the control loop (cinch loop) should close. The 2 pieces on each side of the Control Loop should be a minimum of 2 inches apart. These 2 pieces of hardware should *NEVER* touch. If they touch, your collar is too loose. You should be able to get 2 fingers between the 2 pieces of hardware on the control loop.

Properly fitted on a sighthound, the Martingale should sit around the middle of the neck when the control loop is not tightened by pulling. This is comfortable for the hound. To remove the collar, you may have to use both hands and tuck the ears. This is perfectly fine and isn't uncomfortable for the hound. If you have a hound that doesn't like his ears touched, you may consider either a Buckle Martingale or you may need to loosen the collar before taking it off.

Sources: [http://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0055/4852/products/MartingaleCollarAnatomy\\_grande.jpg?v=1438451080](http://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0055/4852/products/MartingaleCollarAnatomy_grande.jpg?v=1438451080)  
<http://www.2houndsdesign.com/How-to-properly-fit-a-Martingale-Collar.html>



How to prevent a dog from slipping...

If a dog tries to slip its collar, move the collar around its neck so that the leash is perpendicular to the ground and the D-ring is pulling the Cinch loop down. This makes it impossible for the dog to pull out of the collar.

## Walking

Please make sure to follow walking guidelines, all of our fosters are preparing for their forever homes and we want them to have good walking habits so that they don't have any problems when they're transitioning into their new homes.

1. Always **walk at least in pairs**
2. **Have a phone** with you in case of emergencies
3. Always have the **leash looped around your wrist** and **hold the leash with both hands**.
4. The **dog should be at your side**, not walking ahead of you or wandering around. This is important both for control and for training.
5. **Know the dog you are walking!!** Be aware of any anxieties your dog may have, as well as how they are around other animals they may encounter.
6. **Be aware of other dogs and small animals** when you are walking.
7. If approached by another dog, inform the owner if your dog does not do well with other animals/small animals
8. **Pay attention to the dog-** If you are walking a foster, your attention should be completely dedicated to the dog. Please don't text or talk on the phone.

## A Loose Grey is a Lost Grey

Retired racers are trained to take off when they are loose. This means that if a foster escapes, they will sprint until they've run a distance that they are used to, and then be completely disoriented. Being sighthounds, they will also chase anything that catches their eye. No amount of calling or bribing will stop them!

We follow a specific walking path so that the fosters are familiar with it and are more likely to follow it if they ever get loose.

If a foster tries to slip their collar, move the leash below their head, so that the martingale is pulling down, and tighten it. This prevents them from sliding out if they are panicked.

If a dog does slip its collar...

1. **Stay calm**
2. **Call for help** (If the dog had not run, which is extremely rare, hold the dog securely)
3. Follow the dog, but **DO NOT CHASE THEM**