

### Auto Safety:

\* Never allow your dog to ride in the back of an open bed pickup. Your dog should only be allowed in the back of the pickup in a crate that is securely tied down. If you do transport your dog in a crate in the back of the pickup make sure there is protection from overheating or chilling. **Never** leave the dog in the crate in the sun. Provide water often on warm days.

\* Dog seat belts are available to secure your dog from jumping around in the car. Crates can also be strapped down with seat belts and used to keep the dog secured. A crate may be helpful if your dog gets car sick.

\* Keep water available for your dog as you travel. Overheating can happen quickly causing heat prostration and death. Special travel bowls are available with no spill lids. Also freezing water in the bowl provides cool water as it melts.

\* Never keep the windows open far enough that your dog can jump out. Again the Aussie's instincts may overwhelm him causing him to want to chase or catch a passing car, dog, cat, bicycle rider etc. Window guards are available that allow more air.

\* Never leave your dog in a parked car on hot days. Temperatures rise quickly even with windows open.

\* Provide cold damp towels for him to lay on to help reduce heat stress.

\* Have a leash on your dog **before** you open the car door to let him out. Teach your dog the wait command and make sure you have a firm grip on his leash before giving him the command to get out of the car.

\* Teach your dog to wait until you are ready for him to load into the car. Use an unusual command that others would not think of using if they were to try to steal your dog. If you teach him "go for a ride" or similar phrases it makes it easy for someone to open the door of their car and call him in. Whereas if you use an unusual command such as "Boing Boing" it would be harder to lure him in.

Dog Safety for Modern Dogs

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Time Around Aussie Rescue, Inc.

P.O. Box 2305  
Bryan, TX 77806  
1-87-RESCUE US  
(1-877-372-8387)

[www.staar.org](http://www.staar.org)

email: [infor@staar.org](mailto:infor@staar.org)



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## Crate Training For Dogs & Puppies

The Aussie is a herding dog and **because of their strong herding instincts additional safety precautions must be taken to insure your new family members safety.**

Your Aussie will start the bonding process almost immediately. Some bond very quickly giving you a false sense of security that your dog will stick close, come on recall and always be 'tuned into you.' It may be several months before that bond has become strong enough and your voice will be what he hears when he is excited. Even then there is **DANGER** for your Aussie because of the strong herding instincts. Sometimes the excitement of a passing car, child, bicycle rider, squirrel, cat or another dog is enough to cause them to chase and put themselves in harms way. Because of this many Aussies die each year under the wheels of cars.

Protect your Aussie. **Keep him safely on leash when near traffic and never let him off leash to potty or play in an unsecured area.** Temptation can simply be too great for our wonderful working dogs.

There are many dangers our dogs are subject to. Please review this list as a reminder of how you can reduce the risks to your dog.

### **Leashes and Collars:**

- \* Check leashes and collars often for wear or chew spots.
- \* Have a leash on your dog **before** you open the car door.
- \* Make sure the leash is NOT attached to the ID tag rings.
- \* Check often to make sure ID tags can be read.
- \* Make sure the collar can not slip off over the head if your dog panics and pulls. Use a slip or Martingale collar for walking rather than a flat collar.

### **Fenced yards need to be secure, check for:**

- \* Fencing: Is it adequate to contain the critter?
- \* Are there any bad spots in the fence that might easily give way to a pushing dog?
- \* Is there anything near the fence that the dog can get up on allowing a dog to use it as a springboard. ie: dog house (they get on the house then pop over the fence), wood pile, etc?
- \* Is there a garden/flowerbed near the fence that when tilted would encourage the dog to start digging and dig out?
- \* Are there neighbor dogs that might cause fence fighting if it is an open fence?

If there is no fence you **MUST** have a secure potty plan and should have a safe area within a reasonable distance to allow the dog to run and play.

### **Decks on two story homes:**

- \* Are they safely surrounded by tall **secure** railings that will keep a dog from falling or jumping?
- \* Is it close to a fence so the dog might vault off the deck & over the fence?
- \* Are the rails such that a dog could get his head caught? Are they chewed through?
- \* Are the stairs safe or can the dog fall through the stair's railing.?
- \* A gate at the top of the stairs **MUST** be high enough that the dog can't jump over it.

### **Yard:**

- \* Are there garbage cans in a place where the dog can get to them?
- \* Are there any chemicals (fertilizer/sprays/etc.) where the dog can get to them?
- \* Are there upright sprinkler heads? If so, they need to have a bucket/coffee can over them so the dog can see them and don't chew or get hurt on them.
- \* Does the dog have 'his' place? Is there a place where he can dig and not get in trouble? (A kiddie pool with sand to dig in, and one in the summer with water if the dog likes water).

\* Dogs should be kept off the grass and away from the flowers and shrubs for a while after fertilizing or spraying for insects. Don't put out insect killers or snail bait in areas where the dog could eat or lick them.

\* Dogs should always be kept in the house when mowing the lawn or using yard equipment. Aussies particularly can get hurt when they try to catch or herd them.

\* Check to see if you have plants toxic to your dog in your yard or home. See website for list.

### **Other Animals:**

- \* If you have other animals sheep /cattle/ horses /rabbits/chickens etc., are they safe from the dog?
- \* Other animal feed should be kept where the dog can not get to it.
- \* In a barn keep poisons out of reach and make sure it doesn't have residual kill if they eat a dead mouse.

### **Garage:**

- \* Make sure there is no antifreeze/gas/oil/sprays/or chemicals sitting about.
- \* If there are shelves, washers or dryers that the dog can get on you must have nothing dangerous within reach of the dog if he were to get up on them.
- \* Is their oil on the floor the dog might lick off his feet or track into the house?
- \* If the driveway goes into the dogs fenced area make sure the dog is secure before pulling the car in or out.

### **House:**

- \* Is the trash can where the dog can get to it? They do open cupboards. Garbage is dangerous.
- \* Secure the chemicals that are kept in the home so the dog can't get to them.
- \* Are there fine collectibles, nic nac's that can be damaged by a dog knocking into or chewing them?
- \* If you intend on having the dog in one area when you are gone, is it secure? Is there a secure place for the dog if people come who aren't comfortable with dogs?
- \* Make sure there are not small objects a dog could chew or swallow and choke.
- \* Keep candies out of reach. Chocolate in particular is dangerous. Nuts can be a danger causing bladder stones and walnuts contain a common fungus that can cause seizures in dogs.
- \* Garlic and onions can cause hemolytic anemia.
- \* If your home is a two story home, are there safety screens on windows on the second floor that will be secure enough to keep your dog from going through the window and out onto the roof?

### **Doors:**

\* If there are doors that go to the outside where there is not a fenced yard, be prepared to restrain the dog so it doesn't bolt out the door.

\* Are there glass doors? Put a sticker or two on the door to make it easier for the dog to see.

### **Stairs:**

- \* Are they free of obstacles that might trip up a dog or cause them to jump it and fall?
- \* If there is a gate at the top, it must be high enough that the dog does not jump it.

### **Bicycling with your Dog:**

- \* A comfortable speed for the cyclist could be a hard work out for the dog, especially on a decline.
- \* Stay in touch with your dog. Heat Stroke can have very subtle symptoms and if you are on a bike you are more likely to be looking at where you are going, avoiding glass, other bicyclists, joggers etc. and may not really be tuned into your dog. It doesn't take much for an accident to occur when balanced on two wheels.
- \* **YOU** must be careful and remember that other people may not be aware of your dog and may strike him or cause him to move into harms way.
- \* Aussies sometime find the moving tires, pant legs etc. too overwhelming and may try to bite them, or stop you or other cyclists by running in front and blocking the bike.
- \* As you ride. there may be other distractions that can cause your dog harm. Moving cars, other people, squirrels, cats and his instinct to herd can cause him to bolt, unaware of other hazards.