

Preventing a lost Coton

By [Kris Forke](#) on Friday, January 3, 2014 at 7:35pm

The best thing for everyone is to make sure your Coton is never lost. Plain and simple.

Preventing a lost Coton:

Secure Fence

Make sure your fence has no openings more than 4" in diameter. Cotons will squeeze through openings 4" or larger. Make sure it's high enough so that the Coton can not climb or jump over it. Make sure the bottom is less than 4" off the ground. Best if it's below ground. **Make sure all gates are securely shut before putting your Coton outside.** Lock your gates.

Do not use invisible fencing! An electronic fence does not prevent other animals or *people* from entering your property and won't protect a dog from *outside* harm. Dogs with electronic collars continue to bolt from their yards despite "positive" reinforcement training - maybe they HAD to chase something or *something* decided to chase after *them*.

If you live in areas where there are wildlife predators make sure you have a fence high enough to keep them out and/or is hot-wired. Make sure you never let your dog out unattended.

Walk your fence regularly checking for gaps or openings.

Use a Leash

Do not let your Coton off lead in areas where there is no secure fence. Even if your Coton is well trained with a good come/recall command, do not trust them. They can bolt off after a rabbit, car or interest, and be gone.

If you're walking your Coton make sure the leash is securely in hand. Wrap the leash around your hand several times. You can tether the dog to you if you're prone to dropping the leash. Do not allow small children to walk your dog. If friends or dog walkers walk your dog make sure the dog is tethered to the walker so they don't drop the leash.

Make sure your Coton has ID on collar or tag, and is micro-chipped. Make sure your dog cannot slip his collar if pulled. Make sure collar fits well and is in good condition. Make sure leash is securely attached. **Harnesses are best for walking.**

Car

In the car make sure your Coton is seat belted in or is in a crate. Make sure dog has collar and leash. When taking them out of the car make sure all doors are shut and that your Coton is securely on lead before opening the car door. Dogs will bolt out of cars, this is how Tanner was lost. Do not leave your dog unattended in the car. This is one of main causes of dog theft, they break into your car.

Houses and Doors

Make sure doors in your home are kept shut. When people come or go put your dog on leash or contain them. Dogs will dash out open doors, it's a game to them. If you have kids, make sure they know to locate and secure the dog before coming or going. Don't allow kids to come in, go out, come in, go out. The best thing is to have a fence surrounding all doors in case the dog gets out it's within a secure fence.

If you have company or a party make sure dog is securely put elsewhere or on a leash. Also during high noise volume time such as fireworks, construction, thunder storms, traffic or loud music, securely put your dog in a crate so they can't bolt out of the house. Do not take your Coton to fireworks displays, parades, big sporting events, concerts, etc.

General

If you're moving make sure to always have control of your dog and/or contain them in a crate or shut room. You are distracted with packing and moving you can't always supervise them. They're in unfamiliar territory and they maybe looking for ways to take off. During the actual move take your dog somewhere else, crate or lock them in a room where no one can open the door.

Do not allow friends or others to care for your dog. During vacations don't let your dog stay home alone. Make sure they're secure at all times. When in the care of others you never know how alert they are to making sure the dog doesn't run off. **If you must leave your pet in the care of others make sure you go over and over how secure they must keep your dog. Put the fear of God in them that they're to keep your dog secure at all costs.**

Spay or neuter your Coton. If left intact they may get the urge to wander when they're in season or a male smells a female in heat.

If you take your dog to a groomer's make sure they have a second line of security in case a dog bolts. Make sure your dog is always contained or on a leash. If they don't, find a new groomer.

Remember it only take a split second for a dog to bolt and take off. Do not turn your back, don't leave them for a second, do not leave them tied up outside of places. Make sure your Coton is safe and secure at all times.