

## **After Dark Safety For Your Dog**

It's 10 p.m....do you know where your dog is? If your dog is like countless other canines in America, it may have just been let out in the backyard to do its business. Or perhaps the two of you have returned from an after dinner stroll.

For dog owners who work late, an evening walk is a great way to spend quality time with a pet. Also, when the weather's hot and humid, it's a good idea to wait until the evening to exercise your dog. If you regularly walk your pet at night, the following tips will help keep you and your pooch safe and sound.

First, always adhere to the basic rules of the road. Walk against traffic so that you can see oncoming cars, and try to stay off the road when you can.

It's also a good idea to get your pet some nighttime safety gear. A reflective leash or jacket serves to warn passing motorists of your dog's approach, similar to reflective running shoes on joggers. Special flashing safety collars are available also.

Safety gear is especially important if you're walking on country roads or suburban areas without proper sidewalks. It's also not safe to wait until it's completely dark to use it. When worn at dusk, a flashing collar lets joggers and bikers know that you and your pet are using the sidewalk too.

Your dog should also wear his reflective or flashing collar when you let it out in the backyard in the evening. This will help you spot your dog quicker when you're ready to call him, and it will be safe if your dog somehow escapes.