

A NEW LEASH ON LIFE

ABOUT:

One afternoon I let Winston play outside while I filled bird feeders. We lived in a townhouse while our house was being built. The yard was tiny and unfenced, plus it was on a very busy street. While I filled a feeder with seed, a squirrel came too close, and fell from a branch. Winston went into action chasing the squirrel across that busy street. Drivers slammed on their breaks and I screamed for him to stop. He turned around and ran to me back across the street causing more drivers to slam on their brakes. It was a very close call. Needless to say, he from that day on he was always tethered or on a leash.

PURPOSE:

This story is to help children understand that some boundaries are healthy and are implemented because we love them and want them to be safe.

SUGGESTIONS:

Remember a time when you were young and ignored a boundary. Tell what happened and what you learned. Make it as humorous as you can. This will help the children connect with you and if you make it a good story, they will learn from your experience.

IDEAS:

- **Look up different kinds of squirrels, their habitats, and habits**
- **Think of all the kinds of vehicles that raced up and down Winston's road**
- **Discuss safety practices when crossing busy streets, maybe draw pictures.**
- **Talk about why rules are important.**

Did you think of more ideas? Grrreat! Write Winston and let us know so we can include it on this site!