

How To Find the Perfect Leash For Your Dog

Even the best-behaved dog will need a leash on some occasions. There are several advantages to using leashes.



#1: It protects your dog. Young puppies who have not learned to come should always be kept on a leash when out of a fenced yard. Otherwise, they could wander off and become lost or stolen. It is always a good idea to have your dog on a leash when you are walking on a busy street or in a new neighborhood. Your dog could become startled, scared or simply have an innate urge to chase a stray cat or bird. If this happens, your dog could accidentally get hit by a car.

#2: It keeps other dogs safe. If your dog is not friendly towards other canines, be sure to keep him on a leash when you walking in a park, public hiking trail or any area where you may come in contact with other dogs.

#3: A leash protects you. If your dog accidentally harms another person or pet, you will be personally liable. So protect yourself & your dog by using a leash when out & about in public.

Leashes are not hard to find. You can easily pick them up at a pet shop, your local Wal-mart or at an online store such as www.critterschoice.net.

Below is a brief overview of the main types of leashes available.

Fixed length



What it is: A fixed length is a leash that cannot be shortened or lengthened. They generally have a looped handle on the end and come in various lengths—anywhere from 24 inches to 6 feet.

Advantages: Fixed length leads offer more control. Because your lead is only so long, you are able to easily hold your dog in a heel position, and limit the distance he can walk ahead of you. Since you do not have to constantly adjust the length of the lead, you are less likely to trip or become tangled.

Disadvantages: Fixed leads limit the amount of exercise your pet can receive. Because the lead only has so much length, your pet cannot run very far ahead. While this is an advantage from a training perspective, it can also be a disadvantage. If you want your high-strong Pomeranian to run off steam, you will have to run with him.

Although, you can purchase an exceptionally long fixed lead that allows your dog to run further, it can be difficult to manage 10-15 feet of rope.

Retractable



What it is: A retractable leash allows your pet to walk to and fro without getting tangled or tangling you. When attached to your dog's collar the leash rolls out as the dog walks ahead, and immediately rolls back in as the dog comes towards you. Many retractable leads extend as far as 16 feet. They also offer a lock and release system, which enables you to shorten the lead as needed.

Advantages: If your dog wakes you up in the middle of the night or early morning because he needs to go outside, a retractable leash is perfect. It allows your dog to walk, sniff, stretch his legs and find the perfect spot to do his business. And all the while you can sleepily stand in one place.

A retractable leash makes exercising your pet easy. You can walk at a leisurely pace as your dog bounds ahead. You don't have to worry about keeping up or stepping on the lead.

Disadvantages:

Retractable leads break easily. If this product stops working, you'll be stuck with a long lead that is constantly getting tangled. The key is to purchase a good brand, such as those offered by www.critterschoice.net.

Bicycle leash

What it is: Bicycle leads enable you to go for a bike ride with your dog. They consist of a metal bar that attaches either to the hub or frame of your bike. A leash extends from the bar which hooks onto your dog's collar.

Advantages: Bicycle leads allow you to provide your dog with vigorous exercise. By using a bicycle leash you can exercise your dog at a pace you could not normally achieve on foot. These types of leads are great for dogs who are highly energetic and need lots of activity.

Disadvantages: It can be tricky finding a bicycle leash that works for you & your dog. Each brand is different. So you will need to carefully research different models before making a purchase. The most important thing to keep in mind is the length of the lead. If the lead is too short, you could injure your dog's neck. If it is too long, you run the risk of your dog getting caught in the wheel spokes.