

## **Choose the Right Leash**

There are a wide variety of leashes available to control your dog in and out of the home environment. The most common types are fixed length leashes of nylon or leather and retractable leashes of rope or belt extending up to 15-30 feet.

As professional dog trainers, we do not recommend retractable leads for a number of reasons. There is a distinct lack of firm control. If dropped, the casing can spook or even harm the dog as it retracts into them from a distance away. Rope burns are not uncommon. The dog never learns to walk on a loose leash because this lead by its nature provides constant light tension thereby actually teaching the dog to pull. Ironically, people actually buy this leash because their dog already pulls ahead on walks.

Basic leash handling is the key to training and controlling our dogs in every day life. The most functional leash for dog handling should be sturdy and 5-6 feet long depending on the relative height of the handler versus that of the dog. For example a tall person walking a miniature Dachshund needs a longer lead. This allows the dog freedom during casual walks and yet can easily be looped in the hand to give firm and close control when needed.

We recommend leather leads which can last the lifetime of the dog, are essentially weatherproof and don't fray or bind on the hands like nylon or cotton leads. The thickness of the leather and the size of the snap should be selected according to the weight and/or strength of the dog.

A minimal investment in quality equipment can make a big difference in behavior and manners on all your walks.