

Use Retractable Leads?

A Possible Risk of Injury to You and Your Pet!

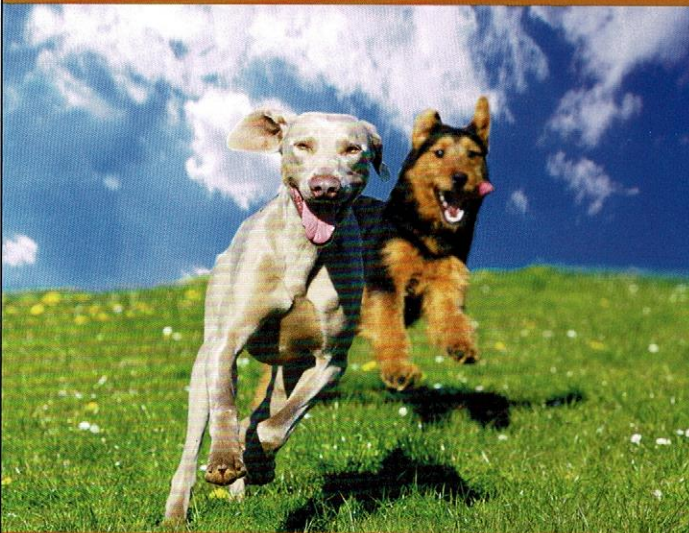
By Nancy Secrist, Easdale: the best pet care

Here at Easdale we use 6-foot braided leather leads to walk our guests about the four acre grounds; we've carefully researched the best equipment to provide a great experience and safety. So, why don't we use retractable leads? Why did the City Council of Lakewood Ohio vote a ban on retractable leads this year?

For starters, consider that retractable dog leads are a positive favorite of personal injury attorneys and also much disliked by dog trainers and veterinarians. A retractable dog leash is a cord between 16 feet to 30 feet long connecting a snap attached to the dog's collar to a handle that allows a person to stop the extension of the leash by pressing a button on



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the handle. If you are a dog owner, you probably have one in the house and it poses a serious risk of injury to you and your pet!

When a pet has over 20 feet to run full out and then hit the end of the retractable lead's length, the impact will do one of four things:

Your pet will take the potentially fatal hit in spine, neck and trachea;

Your hand, arm and body will absorb the impact which may result in cuts, rope burns, and even finger amputations as well as falls resulting in broken skin and broken bones;

The lead breaks which results in a loose pet with all the risks of traffic and other aggressive dogs while the retraction of the lead may cause a high speed broken metal snap to return to the owner, resulting in injury--even the loss of an eye.

You let go, at which point, some rescues or sensitive dogs may panic at the sound of a dropped retractable lead handle and run away. If the leash is retracting as your pet pulls it, the handle is closing in, further panicking your pet. In desperation, they will ignore being called and may wildly run into traffic or cover miles before being exhausted. Personally, in the 1980s while traveling out of state, I nearly lost one of my Airedales this way and immediately threw out every retractable lead I owned.

Veterinarians tell of tragic results of inappropriate retractable lead use. Trainers tell clients that they teach dogs to pull harder on any leash to go where they want. Pet care professionals here at Easdale avoid them for safety reasons. Take a good look at that retractable lead and consider--is it worth the risk?