



Grafton Dog Obedience Club Inc.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT LEAD

When choosing a lead for your dog you need to consider the size of your dog and what the lead is to be used for. For a small dog choose a narrow lead with a small clip so that it won't be too heavy for your dog. A large, strong dog will need a wider, stronger lead with a heavier clip. The length of the lead depends on its purpose. A 2 metre lead is standard for training and is a useful general purpose lead. Choose a shorter lead when you take your dog into crowds so that you don't end up in a tangle.

If you walk your dog in a headcollar, there is a double ended lead available which is 2 metres long, has a very small clip on one end and a larger clip on the other. The small clip attaches to the headcollar (dogs don't generally like anything heavy on their heads), while the heavier clip attaches to the normal collar. There is also a multi-purpose lead that is almost 2 ½ metres long with a clip on each end and several "D" rings along its length. This versatile lead can be clipped back onto itself using the "D" rings to become short, medium or long and can be used with a headcollar.

Another useful lead is the extendable lead that is adjustable and available in lengths from 4 - 8 metres. This is a good lead to use when taking your dog for a walk as it gives him the opportunity to sniff and explore while still remaining under control. This lead can be set to retract automatically so you don't get tangled up in lots of loose lead. Remember to shorten the lead up when other people or dogs approach, or if you need to walk close to the road and traffic.

A very long lead, up to about 10 metres, is useful when you want your dog to have a run in the park, the beach, near traffic, or in the bush but still remain under control. Depending on the size of your dog a very long lead can be made from venetian blind cord, sashcord or yachting rope.

Cotton webbing is strong, durable, soft on the hands, reasonably priced and comes in a range of colours. Nylon leads are fine for small dogs but can be very slippery if you have a large dog that is difficult to manage. Nylon leads come in a wide variety of bright, attractive colours and are also reasonably priced. Good quality leather is another option, but is much more expensive than either cotton or nylon and will need some care to keep it in good condition. Chain leads look nice but are relatively heavy and very hard on your hands so we don't normally recommend them.

There are also some very beautiful patterned matching collar and lead sets available to make your special friend stand out in a crowd.

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