July 2021

Take A Hike!

Dummertime is a great time to take your dog outside and get some fresh air! However, there are a few things to consider before you put on your dog's leash and head out to get some fresh air.



Leash Types

There are a few types of leashes that you can use to walk your dog. The standard leash is the most common and can come in a few different materials, such as Nylon or leather. Furthermore, leashes come in a variety of widths and lengths as well.

Make sure that you test out your leash before taking your dog on a long walk to make sure that the leash isn't too thick for your hand, that it isn't too long or short, etc.

Retractable leashes are another common type of leash. However, while they allow more freedom for your pet on

a walk, they have their caveats. First of all, in order to make them retract, they are made with a very thin piece of nylon string. If there is any type of weakness in the leash itself, it only takes one strong pull for the leash to break. Another downside to the retractable leashes is the basic fact that it is retractable. If you happen to drop the leash while walking your dog and the leash is not in the lock position, the handle will shoot towards your dog, essentially chasing your dog and potentially causing him or her to run away from the handle.



There are other types of leashes, such as slip leads, chains, etc. Please make sure that you try out your leash with your pet by taking a walk around your house or backyard prior to going on an official walk to make sure that the leash works well for you and your dog.

and the rest of your fingers on the right side. Compress your pet's chest by squeezing your hand together.

Leash Training

Training your dog to walk on a leash can be a difficult challenge, and a lot of the training depends on what you expect your pet to do. The

most important thing to keep in mind is to be consistent. If you don't want your dog to pull on the leash, make sure that you are consistent in the commands you give and correct every time your pet performs an unwanted action (pulling, not heeling, etc.) Finding a dog trainer or behaviorist may be a good idea to help identify problem areas in leash walking with your specific pet.

Enjoying long walks outside with your pet is great exercise and a great bonding experience both for you and your pet! Just make sure you take the necessary precautions first to make your outdoor adventures as fun and safe as possible!

Best regards, Rachel Rielinger, DVM



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