

Retractable Leash

Drawbacks, Risks and Warnings

There have been reports of even the strongest retractable leashes breaking, most on very powerful dogs, others on dogs not as powerful but due to poor leash construction. Breakage has been known to occur;

- * Where the line attaches to the clasp
- * Where the line attaches inside the plastic casing
- * The line itself
- * The actual plastic casing
- * The locking and retractable mechanisms.

Reported accidents associated with the retractable leash

- * Line breakage where the line attaches to the clasp, causing the clasp to snap back and detach the retina of a young girl's eye. Other such injuries have been reported.
- * Accidentally dropping the plastic casing handle causing the handle to retract back to the dog, striking the dog in the head or other parts of the body causing fear and/or injury and/or superstitious cues.
- * The line of the retractable leash becomes wrapped around a small dog's leg and when pulled snapped the bone of the leg in two
- * The dog running and hitting the end of the leash with force causing a neck injury
- * Causing the cord to break at the clasp and all the accidents associated with the breakage
- * Causing the handler to drop the plastic casing handle and all the accidents with the breakage
- * Breakage of any kind can cause the dog to be loose in a public area causing injury due to being hit by a vehicle, causing vehicles to crash to avoid the loose animal, and other dangers associated to dogs being loose in public areas.
- * The retractable leash is counter-productive when proofing the recall because of the constant pull of the leash. The dog learns that it must come when called when the leash is attached but as soon as the leash is removed, the pull is gone and the dog knows it is free to do as it pleases. A "life line", "lunge line" or long leash is preferable for this exercise because the dog will not feel the tug on its collar.
- * Since retractable leashes are for sale at many dollar stores, they are of extremely poor quality and have a high potential to break.
- * You cannot train a dog on a retractable as it allows the dog all the freedom, allows the handler only one free hand, making it impossible to use the techniques needed to teach the dog to not pull on leash.
- * Retractable leashes are extremely dangerous when used with a collar or head halter as the handler has very little control over the strength of the pull and the pressure on the dog's neck or head.
- * Since there is a constant tug on the dog's collar, it actually teaches dogs to pull on leash since the pull is constant when walking.

- * When used by bicyclists it can be extremely dangerous to both dog and cyclist because;
- * Only one hand is free with which to control the bike
- * The dog can easily pull the bicycle off balance
- * The dog can easily pull the bicycle into traffic
- * The retractable leash has a high potential for becoming wrapped around the dog, passing dogs or people, bikes or objects causing accidents, injuries and abrasions.