

Rescue Remedies On lead / Off Lead Risks:

Dog laws have changed! We now live in a zero tolerance culture increasingly anti-dog. Incidents involving other dogs or humans getting bitten, can result in control or destruction orders if reported. This is happening regularly not just to people who play risks with their unskilled dogs, but the likes of you & me innocently walking our dogs. Although you can get prosecuted for having a dog dangerously out of control in public, even if your dog was provocative, its your dog who carries the can.

If the local authority / dog warden gets following a dog on dog incident you are likely to end up with **a control order** having to muzzle your dog in public for life. If a human gets bitten breaking up an altercation if the police are called in, suddenly the police's dog unit will call at the house with the summons to seize your dog. You can get an destruction order with your dog seized. Do not sign your dog over. Running a dog rescue we are frequently contacted by people distraught having just had their dog taken by the police or trying to get 'rid of their dogs' because after an incident in fear or once they have been asked to keep their dog muzzled in public, despite their dog hadn't caused the incident.

Irrespective of WHO CAUSED the altercation, dogs are expected to turn & walk away from any provocation. In truth most of the incidents aren't caused by Bull breeds but Bull breeds find it hard to tolerate bouncy, intrusive dogs in their face. The off lead dogs are usually Labradors, Spaniels, Terriers and puppies being allow to run circles around other dogs and if they find it intimidating touch luck.



We use supportive 'h' harnesses

Despite this understanding we are consistently get homing applications with 100% naivety and innocence in expecting most dogs to achieve off lead status.

They want their dog off lead:

Irrespective of their skill deficit or impoverished background

Irrespective of the ability to recall distracting from object of great interest

Untried and tested with another dog provoking them innocently in play or otherwise.

We just don't get it why place your dog and other innocent dogs in the vicinity at risk. . In 2016 (Dogs Trust Stray Dog Survey) 81,050 dogs were found stray in the UK. In council care dogs have **only 7 days to be reclaimed** and 4% were put to sleep by the Local authorities, some who were passed to Rescues would have been put to sleep if they failed some Rescues very stringent assessments. We think over 10% (8,000)

ended up put to sleep and this doesn't include those run over or that go to ground in fox holes who lose their lives. We needed to spell out some of the realities which we hope will make you think about the expectations placed on a dog's shoulders to be an off lead dog.

Rescue Remedies is a responsible rescue. We help council (local authority) pound dogs "death row dogs" either handed in as supposed strays or genuinely stray from lost off lead or escaping from insecure gardens.

Expectations on a dog who is "Off Lead" Only when

- 1) Our dogs must achieve 100% recall despite distractions such as cats; squirrels; birds; running children; joggers; cyclists or other dogs running.
- 2) They must never chase or jump up in excitement especially if they are a Bull breed.



Semi muzzle used for muzzle training

- 3) Our dog must show exemplary behaviour when off lead never intruding into an unsociable dog's space; they must walk away if another dog challenges or starts a fight and they must never run across a road or out of a park gate etc.
- 4) Our off lead dog must not risk their health when going down a hole; drinking from a river and possibly catching Weils disease contracted from rats urine or pick up rotten food.
- 5) Our dog must never challenge or steal from children, fisher people, picnickers or another dog's, food, toys or balls.

Are you committed to your dog? IF OR WHEN my dog ever has an altercation with another dog and one or both get bitten I will stand by my dog and take full responsibility and pay the vet bill for the on lead dog. I will accept a visit by a dog warden & from then on live by the resulting "Control Order" where I have to muzzle my dog in public never to come off lead again and know I am the one that will be prosecuted despite the fact I may blame my dog!

Muzzles when a dog accepts using a muzzle you are then free to go out and get you dog acclimatised to the rough and tumble of off lead encounters. Often muzzles are just used for 6 months or once progress made, kept ready for use with a threatening or interesting situation appearing (ie treat! see below).



You can walk tall and those that chose to turn away seeing your dog as a dangerous dog need to come to understand MUZZLE means RESPONSIBLE OWNER SAFE DOG



Muzzles enable positive dog contact

