

YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO READ THIS

- Public Respect
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Public Respect: Since lockdown many people have valued being outside on walks with their dog, by themselves or with friends. Many people are fearful of “off lead” dogs especially if their owner isn't apparent and keeping their dog in constant check. Fear prompted reactions with an off lead dog running over: raising their arms, backing away or lifting their dog off the ground: These instinctive reactions **entice** rather deflect a curious off-lead dog. People relax when witnessing dogs kept on lead and supported meetings guided by their handler.

Dog Theft: Dogs have such a high financial value now. Pups routinely costing £1000s since lockdown: Many dogs are targeted for theft and the best method is to distract an off-lead dog. Even when a thief approaches a dog on a lead to snatch it by cutting the lead, the owner has a better chance of retaining their dog if held on a lead through their wrist and they can run the other way towards other people.

In 2020 a freedom of information request revealed that 2355 dogs were stolen in the UK and over 60% were not recovered.

Dog meeting Dog: To have a dog off lead isn't just about having 100% recall. Other peoples' dogs aren't all properly socialised or have defensive reactions to approaching dogs. In our view to have a dog off lead meeting a strange dog demands your dog to walk away when challenged. IF a fight ensues, would you always be THERE and be able to stop it or separate the dogs? Who pays the vet bills? If your dog didn't start it: it's no excuse. If puncture wounds result the vet bill is likely to be £100s and in serious cases over £1000. You may have an unannounced police visit several days later and receive a control order which means muzzle for life and reporting the incident to your employer! **Is it worth it???!!!**

Human contact: Whatever the circumstance if your dog marks or pierces human skin, the police are likely to be involved and the onus of proof is on you to explain how your dog injured a person. You are then fighting for your dog's life and having to pay legal bills. If you are involved in any incident you must take photos at the time, as once home fear and grievance escalates people's perception of events. Your dog will be deemed out of control if off lead. There is a Zero tolerance in society now for dog misbehaviour.

Road Accidents: You are never far from a busy road either persistent traffic or a one-off fast car not anticipating a dog running out. If your dog causes an accident you'll probably have high vet bills, if your dog isn't killed. You may also be liable for car damage or even injury to occupants including trauma.

In 2016-17 286 dogs were reported killed on UK roads and a great many more than that injured. In a recent survey 48% of motorists said they wouldn't report hitting a dog and 34% said they wouldn't bother even if they killed it. So it is pretty certain that a good deal more than 286 were actually killed.

Rescuemedies does not condone the following attitudes:

“I have a right to have my dog off lead and if your dog isn't bombproof they shouldn't be out in public.” It's not all about you and your dog, but about understanding other's needs and managing the risks to all concerned. “It's my right to let my dog roam free” Again it's not all about you and your dog doing what you want it's about controlling your dog so that it isn't a public nuisance including for example, chasing livestock when it may well get shot.

Being responsible: Don't be a risk taker; you probably can't afford it. Don't risk your dog's life; liberty or reputation within your community. Respect people who use muzzles with their dogs; they are the responsible owners and the safe ones.

On lead: We are not asking you keep your dog on a short lead outside the house, only around streets. This can involve double leads to collar and harness with the collar lead released or a training line once reaching their exercise area or an extender lead unlock away from streets/traffic.



Trailing Lead



Tape Extender



Double Lead



Cord Extender

If you really want to have your dog off lead you can take them to a dog exercise field where you can do so safely and relatively cheaply.

WE DON'T Home to families wanting their dogs off lead. We don't debate this: We have saved many lives by adopting this principle.