

Why Retractable Leashes Are Dangerous

Some of the information below is from

<https://www.ahna.net/site/blog-asheville-vet/2020/03/30/why-retractable-leashes-are-dangerous-veterinary-hospital>

Though popular, retractable leashes are dangerous for dogs.

Retractable leashes (Flexi leads) are very popular for walking dogs and provide wonderful benefits to dogs when used in the right environment. These types of leashes are designed to give dogs the freedom to roam and explore, but this design can cause problems in enclosed spaces, situations where you cannot give your dog your full attention, or areas that are shared by other families with pets.



Injuries to People & Pets

The thin rope-like cord of the retractable leash can cause severe burns, deep cuts, entanglement or strangulations. **It can even cause amputation to limbs and fingers of both humans and pets.** If the cord portion of the leash is grabbed while it is being pulled, the chance of injuries increases greatly. Hands and legs tend to receive the most traumas. The leash can cause people to trip and break bones and hips. If two dogs on retractable leashes get tangled, there is an even higher risk of injury to the dogs or to the humans attempting to untangle them. Tangled dogs are more fearful and unpredictable, creating an increased risk of bites or cord injuries. The cord can be wrapped around a neck or leg cutting off circulation of blood flow and oxygen.

Dropped Leashes & Fatal Accidents

Some dogs will bolt if they are scared, excited, or trying to chase an animal. The sudden force of a dog pulling can jolt a leash from a hand. The built-in locks on a retractable leash tend to break or wear out allowing loss of control. The combination of loss of control and a split second pulling of a dog can allow them to break free and end up on the middle of oncoming traffic or in contact with another dog. Some dogs are strong enough to pull their families off their feet or break the cords and run into traffic resulting in a serious or fatal injury.

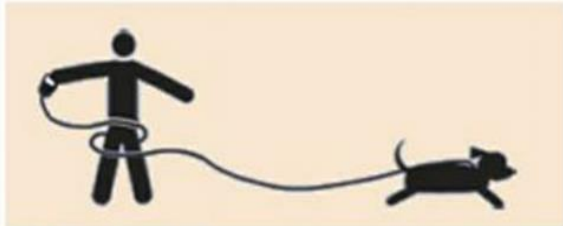
Animal Confrontations

In limited spaces, such as a vets office or pet store, the “roaming” dog can have unwanted or harmful encounters with other animals. In new or different environments, many dogs are stressed. In veterinary hospitals, dogs may not be feeling well, may be painful or overstimulated, and may not behave as they would at home. Dogs can react in a defensive manner leading to injury.

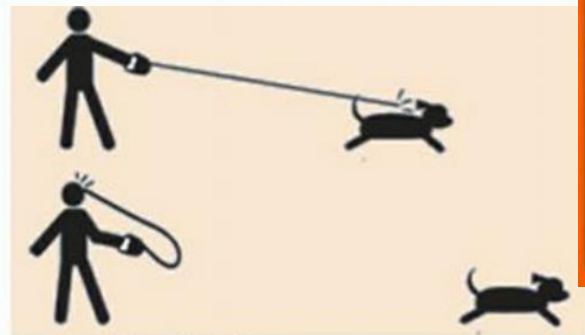
Retractable Leash Injuries



Finger amputations and fractures (OMD)



Cuts and burns



Eye and face injuries



Injuries to bystanders



Falls

