



Paws I Love You

*"If you come in contact with dogs,
you need to contact us!"*

How Many Leashes Do I Really Need?

Leashes help guide your dog through life while keeping him safe. They keep your dog in the training area, which expands as he advances in his education. Leashes make teaching easier and give you the means to apply appropriate corrections when training the commands. With practice and patience your dog eventually won't need a leash at all. So how many leashes do you really need? The chart below may help.

4-foot Light Nylon: Use with puppies or dogs newly brought into the house	A 4-foot leash is very handy for use inside the house. If you attach your dog to your beltloop with a clip, you can catch him EVERY time he's making a mistake. You can correct him when he goes potty on the floor and quickly get him outdoors. If he breaks a house rule, you can correct without chasing him. You'll also be able to teach him to physically follow you, so he literally sees that you are the leader. And you can practice many repetitions of the "easy" and "let's go" commands for short distances in the safe confines of the house.
6-inch Tab: For dogs that know the house rules, but need an occasional correction	Use the 6-inch tab when your dog does something you don't like. You still have something to take hold of and give two quick tugs of correction. If your dog is rebelling, attach the 4-foot leash again to the dog and yourself showing him that he's lost his freedom because he's not obeying the rules. Switch back and forth. When he's not obeying he gets the leash back on and loses the freedom to mill about the house. When he's obeying, the leash comes off and the tab goes on and he wins some freedom.
6-foot Leather: Your dog's lifetime adolescent and adult leash	A 6-foot leather leash is the basic training tool used to keep your dog in the teaching or training area. At first, a 6-foot radius area is best. It keeps the dog close enough to guide him into compliance with a command when you're in the teaching phase. And it helps you give a quick correction in good timing when you're in the training phase. Soft leather is gentlest on your hand and because it gives a little it won't make a sharp hard jerk on your dog. But it'll be strong enough to give an effective correction when needed.
26-foot Flexi-Lead: A chance for your dog to stretch his legs	The 26-foot flexi lead allows your dog to get an adequate amount of exercise every day. By using the 26-foot leash for an extended amount of time, your dog will see how far away from you he can get. Therefore, he gets into the habit of staying within about 30 feet of you when he is eventually off lead altogether.
30 and/or 50 foot Long-Line Used to transition to off lead altogether	The long-lines gives you enough time to give a command and let your dog process that command. Then either he complies with the command and gets rewarded or doesn't comply and gets a correction. You can step on the long line or pick it up and tug on it to administer a correction. It's very handy for example, for perimeter training and proofing your dog on the command "come". You can connect the two together to make an 80 foot long line if you like.

By properly using your leashes, you'll keep your dog safe and the trainings sessions will be more effective. The 3Minutes to a Good Dog course called *"Walking Politely On A Leash"* will take you step-by-step through the process.