

You must always keep control of your dog:

The long line is needed when you wish to train your dog in a large open area and you do not have 100% verbal control. If you are concerned that your dog may behave in a way that you do not want then you need to be able to catch them, stop them doing the wrong behaviour and train them. To catch them or stop them you will very likely need to use a long line.

Important points:

- Use the long line to control the environment. The area that your dog goes and how your dog behaves
- Once you lose control of your dog there is very little that you can do – so keep control
- You either need to have control through verbal control or by having physical control such as through a long line
- There is no limit to the number of uses for a long line, from practising your young puppies first “off leash” experience, to testing out your dog on a field to see how it responds to other dogs

Safety:

- Ensure that you have room to move when using the long line. Avoid closed in spaces where the line can easily get twisted around you
- Avoid using the long line if you are unsure that you can stop your dog running at full speed
- Wear suitable footwear so that you can stand on the line in a controlled way
- If you have a large, energetic or powerful dog then maybe ask somebody first to check out your dog on the long line to see how it goes
- Be careful that the long line does not twist around your ankles, or another person, or a dog
- If you are in an area with lots of people especially young children it may not be suitable to use the long line. You may have to go elsewhere or use a much shorter line

Remember:

- 1.** Drop the end of the line on the floor, you do not have to hold it.
- 2.** Keep one end of the leash near your foot at all times until you are confident that your dog will return when called!
- 3.** Choose a line or rope that is long enough to give your dog some freedom but not too much.
- 4.** Start with a shorter length however you should eventually test your dog out over a much longer distance of say 20 meters where he can run, have fun and feel free, then practice a recall and see how it goes.
- 5.** As always on a recall– call, then reward and then release!
- 6.** Do not let the line or rope get twisted around other people or dogs, if this is the case let go of your end
- 7.** The long line is not forever

Q&A

Q: When can I let my girl off the leash, is there a specific test?

A: *You should know when your dog is coming back to you and under what conditions. Then note that it is only under these conditions that she is currently responding. If the stimulus increases, it may be a different story! Better to be safe than sorry, there is no rush.*

Q: What should I do if my dog refuses to come even when I call?

A: *Pull your dog back in on the long line, attach a leash and then in a less exciting area practice some SSCD and then some recall.*