

## The Long and Short of the Retractable Leash

(excerpt from "Practice for Real Life") by Ted & Tiffany Terroux, Ted Terroux's Canine College, Lakewood CO

The retractable leash has become a popular tool with dog owners. The broadest appeal is in its flexibility and control. A dog is given greater mobility and a more efficient means to exercise while the owner maintains control in uncontained areas. The retractable leash can also be a useful training device in teaching long distance stays and recalls while working in open areas. There are some wonderful benefits to using the retractable leash, but handlers should be aware of the potential hazards of this tool in order to avoid injury to themselves, their dog, or passersby. Following are some examples of incidents involving the use of the retractable leash.

A couple returning from a park were walking alongside the street when their dog suddenly bolted into the street. The leash brake was not engaged, and the dog was hit by a car and killed instantly. A Siberian Husky took off toward another dog in a park. The owner grabbed the cord to stop the dog and cut three fingers on her left hand down to the bone. A mother and her little girl were walking through an open space with their Newfoundland. Their dog took off after something behind them, dragging the cord across the front of the girl, resulting in a laceration to her neck. A Labrador Retriever hit the end of his line at full steam while the cord was wrapped around his leg, cutting the soft tissue between his hip and abdomen. An Airedale hit the end of his line suddenly at full speed while wearing a head halter, his head violently jerked around, damaging the vertebrae in his neck. In an open space park, a Beagle on a retractable leash bolted in front of a cyclist before the handler could get control. The cyclist was knocked off his bike suffering minor injuries while the dog handler suffered a severely sprained wrist. A Dalmatian that frequently chewed through leashes quickly bit through the thin retractable cord and ran away—never to be seen again. A Welsh Corgi bolted off the elevator right before the doors closed. The dog was suspended by his neck at the top of the outer elevator doors in the lobby until he could be cut free.

When purchasing a retractable leash, be sure to get one that is rated for your dog's weight. A heavier line is less likely to break when used with a larger dog. Some manufacturers offer a belt style retractable leash that can be safer to use than the retractable cord leashes. Both styles are usually available at most pet stores. Stores that carry horse supplies often carry a belted style retractable that is used for horses that is considerably longer than the dog versions, but it is larger, heavier and more cumbersome to operate. A longer line does give the dog more freedom to roam and will facilitate controlling the dog securely from greater distances while practicing recalls and stays.

Before using the retractable leash, be sure to read the manufacturer's directions carefully. Learn how to properly use the brake and how to "reel in" the dog. Practice! To reel in the dog, reach toward the dog with the handle, press and hold the brake button while pulling the handle toward you, then release the brake and repeat as necessary. With the cord fully extended, paint a bright mark on the cord about three or four feet from the casing. This mark will help you see when you're about to run out of cord. The idea is to avoid letting the line feed all the way out, hitting the end of the reel where the cord has a greater tendency to break. You may want to paint bright colored-coded marks at various points on the cord to indicate how much cord is remaining. This helps to prevent problems like the dog hitting the end of the line and surprising the unprepared handler. In some cases, the handle gets yanked out of the owner's hand when the dog hits the end of the line, and then the plastic case bounces around behind the dog, sometimes spooking the dog and causing him to run away. The handler may suffer injury to fingers, wrist, elbow, shoulder, or fall down when attempting to hold on to the handle when a dog suddenly hits the end of the line. It is inadvisable to put a retractable leash on a dog that has a tendency to bolt suddenly towards anything. If you find yourself in a situation where the dog is bolting, it is better to hit the brake immediately before your dog gets up a full head of steam.

Practice using the leash in a small area with no distractions while you learn how to operate it efficiently. You can practice using a retractable leash while a person holds the other end of the line, moving back and forth and sideways mimicking a dog's movements. Make sure the person holds on to the other end of the line

securely to prevent the line from snapping back and hitting you in the face! Avoid allowing slack to develop in the leash as this may contribute to your dog getting tangled up in the line.

If your dog is not capable of walking on a loose lead, he should not be on a retractable leash! Never hook up a retractable leash to a head halter on a dog that has a tendency to bolt. The retractable leash will only encourage dogs that have a tendency to pull to pull even harder. Loose lead training should begin on a six-foot leash. If he begins to pull on the retractable leash, promptly go back to the six-foot leash and continue loose lead training. If your dog is out of control on leash, consider contacting a reputable professional trainer for advice.

Retractable leashes can tangle easily as dogs move around other dogs who are also on the retractable leash. Be careful when walking around other people or dogs. When the leash is extended out, the cord can easily wrap around legs and feet. For better control, lock the leash in its shortest position when approaching people, animals, auto traffic, poles or trees. Try to keep the leash handle near your side with your elbow bent. An arm held straight out cannot absorb the impact of a dog hitting the end of the line.

When properly used, the retractable leash can be a real benefit to the dog and the handler. We only wish some clever manufacturer would come out with a retractable leash that has a brake that slows gradually, rather than jolting the handler and the dog when the brake is engaged as the dog bolts.

For more information, contact:

*Ted or Tiffany Terroux*  
*Ted Terroux's Canine College*  
*Colfax & Kipling Center*  
*9797 W. Colfax Unit 3RR*  
*Lakewood, CO 80215*  
*303-232-1034*  
*Web: [www.tedterrouxdogtraining.com](http://www.tedterrouxdogtraining.com)*  
*e-mail: [tedterroux@att.net](mailto:tedterroux@att.net)*

---

## **Attention ALL Adopters!**

We are in the process of updating records at Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. People move, phone numbers and email addresses change... it's all part of life. The records update procedure will ensure we have current contact details for all adopters – just in case. Please take a moment to visit this site

(<http://www.rainbowedge.us/dals/Update.htm>), complete and submit the update form so that we may update our records. It would be greatly appreciated and may just help to return your beloved Dalmatian to you should he or she become lost. **Our privacy policy ensures that this information will never be transferred, sold, given to or shared with any other party and will be used only for official Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado purposes.**

---

## **Attention ALL Volunteers and Foster Families!**

We didn't forget you wonderful people!! We need your updated information too. So please go to the link below and update your information as well. Thanks!! Please take a moment to visit this site

(<http://www.rainbowedge.us/dals/VolUpdate.htm>), complete and submit the update form so that we may update our records. **Our privacy policy ensures that this information will never be transferred, sold, given to or shared with any other party and will be used only for official Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado purposes.**

---

## **\*\* FOSTER HOMES STILL DESPERATELY NEEDED \*\***

**PLEASE, we need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes you probably would not have gotten your dog. PLEASE think about fostering a dog for Rescue so we can save lives like we saved your pet's life!! PLEASE give a warm home to a dog that can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and be ready for a new home. PLEASE help us and the dogs so that others might have a dog that is well socialized, trained, and ready to love. PLEASE think about this.... Dalmatians are everywhere and literally dying to meet you or someone willing to give them a "spot" to be until their forever home comes along. PLEASE be a spot for us... and for them? If you can't foster, please ask others to help out by fostering a Dal.**

**We thank you and you know any dog you help us save will be eternally grateful! PLEASE submit a foster application if you can possibly help us and them! PLEASE take your cookie... good boy/girl!**

---

# Bits & Pieces

## Just for fun...

This is so funny. Some version of England's American Idol. This one actually made Simon Cowell laugh.

<http://www.biertijd.com/mediaplayer/?itemid=3076>

Sometimes when you're angry, it helps to sit down and think about the problem...



### Get your daily dose of cute!

<http://dailypuppy.com/index.php?itemid=1419>

(Thanks to Diane M. from Colorado Springs for this link)

## Don't Ban Your Dog, Band Your Dog

We found this site recently and decided that it might be helpful to anyone with a male dog with housebreaking problems or age-related urinating problems. The band is made to fit so it is comfortable for the dog. I've used one on my senior boy in the past. It was only necessary at night because he was aware during the day and I was also there to put him outside. I lined the band with sanitary pads and it worked well. I did get mine at Petsmart but at a much higher price and it didn't always fit him that well. So, check out this site. There are female panties but only for toys. Those are available everywhere but these male bands look pretty good here & are affordable!

<http://www.doggieessentials.exactpages.com/BellyBands.htm>

### I CAN \*SPOT\* A DEAL



*Connie Pitcher - Realtor*

### Buy Or Sell A House, Save A Dal!

Buy or sell real estate with me and I will donate to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado!! Help me help our spotted friends... Successfully buy or sell real estate with me as your real estate agent and I will donate 1/8% of the sale price of the property to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. Let's get started, tell your friends and family.

**Example: You buy or sell a property for \$200,000.00 with me as your agent, I receive my real estate commission and from this I will donate \$250 in your name. Offer valid through 12/31/2007**

**My Babies**



**Jewel**



**Perdita & Sampson**

**Direct: 970-310-0828**

**Email: [PropertyByConnie@aol.com](mailto:PropertyByConnie@aol.com)**



**Connie Pitcher, Realtor**  
On the South Shore of Lake Loveland  
832 W. Eisenhower Blvd  
Loveland, CO 80537  
Office: 970-663-0733



---

# Ten Peeves That Dogs Have About Humans

1. Blaming your farts on me... NOT FUNNY... not funny at all!!!
  2. Yelling at me for barking. I'm a friggin' dog for cryin' out loud!
  3. Taking me for a walk, then not letting me check stuff out. Exactly whose walk is this anyway?
  4. Any trick that involves balancing food on my nose. Stop it!
  5. Any haircut that involves bows or ribbons. Now you know why we chew your stuff up when you're not home.
  6. The fake fetch throw. You fooled a dog! Whooo Hoooo what a proud moment for the top of the food chain.
  7. Taking me to the vet for "the big snip", then acting surprised when I freak out every time we go back there.
  8. Getting upset when I sniff the crotches of your guests. Sorry, but I haven't mastered that handshake thing.
  9. Dog sweaters. Hello??? Haven't you noticed the fur?
  10. How you act disgusted when I lick myself. Look, we both know the truth... you're just jealous.
- Now lay off me on some of these things. We both know who's the boss here! You don't see me picking up your poop, do you?
- 

## A Reminder From Your Dog

I am your dog, and I have a little something that I'd like to whisper in your ear. I know that you humans lead busy lives. Some have to work, some have children to raise. It always seems that you are running here and running there, often much too fast, often never noticing the truly grand things in life.

Look down at me now while you sit there at your computer. See the way my dark brown eyes look at yours? They are slightly cloudy now. That comes with age. The grey hairs are beginning to ring my soft muzzle. You smile at me: I see love in your eyes. What do you see in mine? Do you see a spirit? A soul inside, who loves you as no other could in the world? A spirit that would forgive all trespasses of prior wrong doing for just a simple moment of your time?

That is all I ask. To slow down, if even only for a few minutes, to be with me. So many times you have been saddened by the words you read on that screen of others of my kind, passing. Sometimes we die young and oh so quickly, sometimes so suddenly it wrenches your heart out of your throat. Sometimes we age so slowly before your eyes that you may not even seem to know until the very end, when we look at you with grizzled muzzles and cataract-clouded eyes. Still the love is always there, even when we must take that long sleep, to run free in a distant land.

I may not be here tomorrow: I may not be here next week. Someday you will shed the water from your eyes that humans do when deep grief fills their souls, and you will be angry with yourself that you did not have just 'one more day' with me.

Because I love you so, your sorrow touches my spirit and grieves me. We have NOW, together. So come, sit down here next to me on the floor and look deep into my eyes. What do you see? If you look hard enough and deep enough we will talk, you and I, heart to heart. Come to me not as 'alpha' or 'trainer' or even 'Mom or Dad'. Come to me as a living soul and stroke my fur and let us look deep into one another's eyes and talk. I may tell you something of the fun of chasing a tennis ball, or I may tell you something profound about myself, or even life in general. You decided to have me in your life because you wanted a soul to share such things with. Someone very different from you, and here I am.

I am a dog, but I am alive. I feel emotion, I feel physical senses, and I can revel in the differences of our spirits and souls. I do not think of you as a "dog on two feet" I know what you are and who you are. You are human in all your quirkiness, and I love you still.

Now, come sit with me on the floor. Enter my world and let time slow down if only for fifteen minutes. Look deep into my eyes and whisper into my ears. Speak with your heart, with your joy, and I will know your true self. We may not have tomorrow, but we do have today, and life is oh so very short.

So please..... come sit with me now and let us share the precious moments we have together.

Love on behalf of canines everywhere,

Your dog.

(Author unknown)

---

## Help Get Food For Rescue...

While this isn't OUR rescue, with all the open hands looking for donations and assistance, I thought you might enjoy one that doesn't require you to crack open your wallets or checkbooks. All that is required to help fund food for rescue groups is to click on a button while sitting in front of your computer (which many of us do much too often during the day). Please visit the following link EVERYDAY and pass it along to others to click, as well: <http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/home.faces?siteId=3> and then click on the purple button marked "Click Here To Give - it's FREE!" Each click helps pay for food provided by the site's sponsors.

---

---

# In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatian

---

## Leroy



1 year old, Black & White, Male, Stray

Extra Urgent!! "Little" Leroy is a really fun dog. He was abandoned to a shelter likely because he had no manners. Being deaf didn't help either. Even the shelter didn't realize that, so maybe the owner didn't either? We are trying to find a foster or an adoptive home that has the time to enjoy this fella and continue his education. Leroy has learned signs for "sit", "good dog", "come", "wait", etc. He is good with cats and most female dogs but best not with male dogs. Leroy is crate trained and so good inside. He is in a boarding/day care situation currently, but wants more than anything to have walks, and to play ball and to cuddle! He is the most amazing cuddler if given the chance. Leroy is probably about 70#. He likes toys and retrieves and just smiles and smiles. Everyone who has met him just adores him. Could he fit in your home? Leroy is in Ft. Collins and sure needs out of boarding into a one-on-one situation. Help poor Leroy get a better situation!

---

## Featured Happy Beginning Story

---

### Fonzie & Trina

After SIX homes, this pair finally landed in Heaven! I wanted to share these pictures from Wisconsin. Notice complete happiness in the second picture. Brings me to tears! Fonzie and Trina were both shelter dogs that fostered with my friend Patti Smith, who helped me so much for about 2 yrs...but then her health started to fail. She loved these two so much but when she died (complications from diabetes) her husband couldn't care for their daughter and these two. Dee took them to Arizona and where they became part of two households, mom and daughter, both with kids, which these dogs like so well. Then the daughter took both and moved to OK, where we learned about them because they were loose and we were called. The family couldn't keep them so they came back to CO to a family in Wellington for 5 months but mom decided she didn't like the mud tracking in. They were fantastic with the young children. Then, to Co. Springs to a single guy who really loved them... until his job took him away too much on



travel. Then he gave them to another family in Co. Springs. They were there probably 8-9 months, I think, when the wife took the kids and disappeared, leaving dad and the dogs behind. Dad was working out of town so they had to move again! This time they went to a nice family in Lakewood with one child but a whole neighborhood of kids over all the time. After about 4 months this family lost their home and they had to move to an apartment. That is when Dan and Roxie actually inquired about Roze in California on our website. I had a hunch they might consider a pair and I went for it! (grin). It worked!!! and Tom took them to meet the Roxie along I-80 south of Wisconsin. Dan and Roxie have had Dals for years and just let their last one when they contacted me. The dogs are in Seventh Heaven running the corn fields and nearby woods.

**A very happy ending FINALLY!!**

---

**Please don't forget... if you haven't sent in your Happy Beginnings Story yet, why not do it right now while it's fresh in your mind! It's never too late to see your story in print!!**

---

NewSpots is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots will be the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.

---

**Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization.  
Donations are tax deductible!!**

6828 Rim Rock Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80526 **Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963** Fax: 970-377-9509

<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>

---