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Puppy barks at other dogs on leash

Aw

w ... you got a puppy. Bet you're looking forward to lots of fun days playing with her, taking walks. Feeding her, teaching her to roll over, taking walks. Cuddling on the couch with her and, yes, taking walks. Are you sensing a theme?Dogs require a lot of walks. The obvious reason is because they have to go out to "do their business," meaning urinate and defecate. The frequency depends on the breed, but if you live in an apartment or a house without a fenced yard where they can roam freely to take care of the call of nature, as the adult in the room you're responsible for taking them out to a designated area (hopefully not your neighbor's yard) where they can "go."But there's more to it than that. Dogs need lots of exercise. They need to burn off energy and socialize with other dogs (hello dog park!). Walks are an important part of your dog's daily routine, and that means your pup's leash is a crucial canine accessory. Have you ever Googled the phrase "best dog leash"? We did and got more than 144 million results. In the interest of narrowing the results, we talked to an expert about her favorite leash and why she recommends it.Leashes to AvoidSusie Aga is a nationally recognized dog trainer, an expert in dog behavior modification and the founder of Atlanta Dog Trainer. She has decades of dog training experience and has clear preferences about leashes. Aga says she never recommends a retractable leash."They're very popular leashes but everyone hates them," she says. "It's irritating for the dogs on the leash, they've got constant tension on them, and it's irritating for humans in the community. Most pet owners don't reel in their dogs. They just let them wrap up whoever's walking by."Aga's right. Retractable leashes are dangerous to dogs (and humans). How many times have you been strolling along in the park minding your own business when suddenly there's a Doberman pincher staring at you a good 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters) away from its owner?Aga also doesn't like the slip lead, which is basically a slip knot allowing you to slip your dog's head through the loop and pull to tighten (think of those leashes you get at the vet). But they can be very dangerous. "I don't like them because it puts a lot of pressure on the dog's trachea and can cause a lot of damage," she says. "I think they're terrible."Leashes to Go WithAga's leash recommendation is a basic 6-foot (1.8-meter), braided leather leash with brass fittings that clips onto the dog's collar or harness, whichever the dog wears when walking. Aga says 6 feet is plenty long for every breed of dog to get away to use the bathroom. The only time she doesn't recommend the brass fittings is for small dogs because the brass clasps can be too heavy. Try stainless steel or aluminum fittings instead."Leather leashes last a really long time," she says. "I've got one leash that's 15 years old. That's not an exaggeration."When you look at the lists of the "Top 10 Leashes for Dogs" you'll be hard-pressed to find a braided leather leash. Most are made of reinforced nylon or cloth webbing. Some even have carbon fiber woven into them. Others are made of nylon rope. Aga says those are fine, but prepare to keep buying them.Is a Harness or Collar Better?Nylon leashes, even the ones that are sturdy webbing, are fine but they don't last as long as leather," she says. "Dogs can chew through them and then the owners end up tying them in knots. There's a lot of stuff in the dog world designed to make you buy more. As a trainer, I want something that's going to last a long time."Aga says all dogs should wear collars, where their tags are located. The leash clips onto the collar. Some dog breeds, large ones like Siberian huskies or Bernese Mountain dogs or much smaller ones such as toy breeds or puppies benefit from wearing harnesses when then go for walks. They're good for dogs who pull a lot, too."Harnesses are designed so there is less pulling," says Aga. "Front clip harnesses seem to work best for that. You don't want to put a lot of pressure on the trachea of a small breed. So, a lot of toy breeds will use harnesses rather than a collar because of how small they are." If using a regular leash strains your shoulders or if you want to walk with your pup without holding a leash, the best hands-free dog leashes attach to your waist and feature a shock-absorbing design so that you and your dog won't jostle each other around too much. For running, look for an adjustable waist belt with a stretchy bungee cord leash that has some give in case one of you pulls or stops short. Always ensure the leash is the correct size for your dog — most manufacturers provide guidelines for this.If you need a belt-style leash for running or walking, look for one with a leash that has handles you can use when you need more control, or if you ever need to switch to using the leash in a more hands-on capacity. It's also advisable to look for a leash with reflective stitching to help keep your pet visible when it's dark outside, and weather-resistant materials are definitely a plus if you expect to encounter damp conditions. If you trust your pup with more freedom, look for a leash that connects to your belt with a clip that can slide from side to side, allowing the leash to shift as well. On the other hand, if you're worried your dog could break free, opt for a leash with metal security clips on the belt to take the tension off the buckle. Some hands-free leashes have pockets or pouches attached to the belt, so you can carry treats or small essentials like a phone or keys. While top-rated belt-style leashes are adjustable, they may not fit every body, so take note of whether the belt is the correct size for you before making a purchase. If you want to bike with your dog, you might consider a bike leash, which mounts directly to the bike and keeps your dog safely away from the wheels. Biking with your dog can be dangerous if you aren't careful, so make sure you've studied the topic and properly prepared your dog before heading out for a bike ride with your pup in tow.Before you buy any sort of hands-free leash, take note that these leashes are only recommended for well-behaved dogs familiar with loose leash walking and are not ideal for pet owners with large dogs that can easily overpower them. Always consult with a trainer before switching your dog to a hands-free leash. Read on for three super convenient leashes for hitting the trails, streets, or sidewalks with your pup — without holding a leash. 1. The Overall Best Hands-Free LeashTuff Mutt Hands Free Dog LeashAmazonFor easy hands-free walking, jogging, or hiking, this leash from Tuff Mutt is an easy choice. The leash connects to the adjustable 48-inch belt via a sliding clip, allowing your dog a little extra freedom to move from side to side or dodge your footsteps. The leash itself is 4 feet long to keep your dog close, but its shock-absorbing bungee can extend an extra foot if they pull. Two handles give you the option to easily grab your pup when necessary, or even to unclip the leash from your belt and use it as a regular hands-on leash. Reflective stitching keeps you and your dog visible at night, and weather-resistant material ensures the leash can withstand wet conditions. Tuff Mutt's lifetime guarantee promises you'll get your money back if you encounter any problems, but with a 4.7-star overall rating on Amazon, among over 3,100 reviews, you're likely to love it.Choose from a bunch of fun colors. It's worth noting that the manufacturer suggests using with dogs between 30 and 100 pounds.Positive Amazon review: "I got this for my goldendoodle so she can go running without me having to hang on to her leash. It's been great so far and we love it. I like that it's elastic so she can pull ahead a bit or stay right next to me. The two handles are really useful for when we have to stop suddenly or when I need to have her by my side quickly. I attach it to her easywalk harness and it works like a charm. She's learned to stay the perfect distance away as to not trip over it. That's the only downside to attaching it to a front-clip harness but we've got a great system going now and we both love this leash."2. A Hands-Free Leash That's Extra Secure SparklyPets Hands Free Dog Leash With Extra SecurityAmazonIf you're concerned about keeping your dog securely attached to your waist, this SparklyPets hands-free dog leash should give you peace of mind. The leash clips to a belt that can be adjusted from 26 inches to 47 inches in length and features stainless steel security clasps over the buckle to help reduce tension that could strain it, even when your dog pulls. That said, while it's a good idea to plan for a worst case scenario, remember that hands-free leashes are not safe to use with dogs that aren't reasonably well-behaved on the leash. And while the manufacturer recommends this leash for medium or large dogs (but doesn't give more specific sizing details), keep in mind that it's never a good idea to use a hands-free leash with a large dog that is able to overpower you.This leash also features a shock-absorbing bungee cord that stretches from around 4 feet in length to about 5 feet and 8 inches. The leash is made from weather-resistant nylon with reflective stitching for nighttime visibility. There are two handles for extra control: one easy-grip handle on the bungee and an additional rubber handle that lets you switch quickly from a hands-free to traditional hands-on leash. It also comes with a carrying pouch.With more than 7,000 reviews on Amazon and a 4.5-star rating overall, it's clear that this leash is a favorite for many. Choose between four different colors, plus two colors in a premium version (one of which is a shiny gold) that feature padded handles and pockets. Positive Amazon review: "Love this hands free leash! We've used it mostly hiking, and it's been great! The extra stretch of the bungee leash feels more comfortable for both my dog and me. I really love the two handles on the leash so I can pull her closer when passing people on the trail. It all seems strong and well made, which is what I need for my dog (she's 105 pounds)."3. A Hands-Free Leash With Belt PocketsPaw Lifestyles Hands Free Dog LeashAmazonIf you could always use some extra pockets, the Paw Lifestyles hands-free dog leash has two expandable zip pouches in its 48-inch adjustable belt so you can easily stash your phone, keys, or dog treats. A D-ring on the belt is also a handy place to connect a poop bag holder or clicker. All this added storage is a win (just ask the more than 1,700 Amazon reviewers who gave it an overall rating of 4.6 stars), but might especially appeal to runners who typically use a running belt. The leash itself is around 4 feet in length, but has a shock-absorbing bungee that can extend up to 5 feet and 8 inches long. Dual handles offer additional control, or the option to unclip the leash and use it as a standard leash. Reflective stitching keeps you and your pet super visible in the dark, and a durable nylon construction can withstand any weather conditions you might encounter. The manufacturer suggests that the leash is ideal for dogs up to 150 pounds, making it a great choice for even large dogs. Choose from three different colors.Positive Amazon review: "I absolutely love this leash and waist belt. I run every morning, and this is a huge lifesaver! It is a little heavy, but if my dog (who's 80 pounds) runs at a steady pace and keeps the leash fully extended, it takes the weight off the belt and keeps it from bouncing. I leave mine a little loose so the belt can move from side to side when he does. I'm a size 2-4 waist, and it will tighten enough so it'd be snug. I was concerned that my Samsung Note 8 wouldn't fit, but it does, and it has a pretty bulky case on it as well. I can also fit other items in the second pocket. Plenty of room."Also Great: A Hands-Free Leash For Cycling1-Running Dog Bike Tow LeashAmazonThe 1-Running Dog bike tow leash is ideal for cyclists who want to ride with their dogs. The leash attaches to the left side of most bikes and even mobility scooters, and the manufacturer claims it can be mounted in under a minute and doesn't require any tools. It features a sturdy aluminum arm that keeps your pet from getting too close to the bike, and Amazon reviewers marvel over its ability to prevent their dogs from tipping or pulling their bikes. "The internal elastic absorbs all the tension so I often forget that I'm even riding with my dog," reported one reviewer, adding, "we were heading down a steep hill when all of a sudden an entire herd of deer darted out in front of us [...] I braced myself for SOME type of impact BUT nothing happened. Even with 100lbs of muscle pulling me in the opposite direction I hardly felt a thing." This feature also allows your dog to run alongside the bike without any excess jolting. Designed for dogs weighing 10 to 185 pounds, both big and small dogs can enjoy coming along for your ride. Reviewers note that you should be careful not to ride too fast for your dog, and that you should be prepared for your dog to be able to tip or pull your bike when you aren't sitting on it.The tow leash is available in a number of different colors and can be purchased with an included martingale collar. Positive Amazon review: "I am in love with this gadget! Our VERY large and energetic German Shepherd loves to run, so I thought of having him run alongside the bike to save my knees. This keeps even our behemoth a good distance away from the bike for a full range of motion and keeps him at that distance even when I turn toward him. No running into the bike when turning." Dog owners know: Big dogs require greater pull force and are often more prone to tugging and yanking, and need a stronger leash than smaller pups. That's precisely why the best leashes for big dogs on the market are so great, and help protect you and your dog from running wild when you're out for a walk.When beginning your search for the right dog leash for your pup, there are a number of things to consider. The first one is size. Do you want a leash made from nylon, cotton, paracord, or other soft materials? Or would you prefer something like leather that's a tad bit tougher and sometimes considered more aesthetically pleasing? If you have a strong chewer, you may want to consider a metal chain that will be impossible to chew through. Another factor to think about is you and your dog's lifestyle. If you guys like to hike or go on adventures together, you may want to look into hands-free leashes. If you're typically walking on narrow, crowded streets, you might want to get a retractable leash that you can adjust when passersby approach. If you have more than one mutt, a double dog leash with a splitter could make a good choice. To help out, I've put together a list of the best leashes for big dogs for every type of puppy personality. 1Overall Best: A Strong Rope Leash With Comfy Handles And Reflective StitchingBAAPET Strong Dog Leash With Padded HandleAmazonThis super durable dog leash is made from mountaineering rope that's half an inch thick in diameter, 5 feet long, and made with a thick weave that makes it tough and rugged. The thick girth of the leash also makes it chew-resistant and long-lasting. The sturdy leash, which comes in five colors including black, blue, green, red, and hot pink, features comfy padded handles and reflective stitching to make you visible at night. "I love using this leash!" said one enthusiastic Amazon reviewer. "My dog hasn't chewed through it yet or done any damage. ... It's holding up well, and my wrist is comfortable."2Best Retractable: A 16-Foot Leash With An Easy Lock ButtonHertz Heavy Duty Retractable Dog LeashAmazonThis high-grade retractable dog leash gives you the flexibility to keep your pooch close when you're passing other dogs or walking on crowded city streets, yet offers them room when it's time to pee or sniff grass. It's built with a smooth spool that retracts effortlessly, gliding in and out without catching or getting tangled in knots. It extends out 16 feet and has an easy lock button that won't stop working after a month like some retractable leashes do. The comfort-grip, anti-slip handle is ergonomically designed and capable of holding pups up to 110 pounds. "My dog is 40 lbs and I think he believes that he is walking *me,* by the way that he tries to pull me around," said one happy Amazon user. "This is the only retractable I have found that is comfortable, durable, and long enough for him to explore."3Best Hands-Free: A Leash With A Built-In Waist Belt For RunningPaw Lifestyles Hands-Free Dog LeashAmazonThis awesome hands-free dog leash features a built-in waist belt that frees up your hands for other things. The belt is soft and comfy with a special pouch that's custom fit to hold your phone. It also has another pocket for storing items like cash, dog treats, and poop bags. When you need to hold on to your pup, the leash offers two handles — one farther back for easy strolling and another one up close for immediate control. It has reflective night material and can hold dogs up to 150 pounds. "I honestly don't know how I ever went hiking without this leash," said one Amazon customer. "It's fantastic. Incredible. Amazing. I can't say enough good things about it."4Best For Chewers: A Metal Leash That Is Rust-Proof And UnbreakablePettom 4-Inch Chain Chrome-Plated Dog LeashAmazonWith sleek chrome plating and a sturdy, swiveled bolt snap, this metal leash is strong, stable, and perfect for dogs that love to chew through fabric leashes. It features a loop handle at the top with soft nylon webbing and a flexible foam grip that comes in three color choices. The professional-grade metal portion is rust-proof and breakage-resistant. "I love this leash!!!" exclaimed one Amazon reviewer. "My dog has chewed through so many nylon and leather leashes, I couldn't handle it anymore!!! He doesn't even bother trying anymore, because he knows it's hopeless with this leash!!!"5Best For Pullers: A Shock-Absorbing, Durable Bungee CordSparklyPets Heavy Duty Retractable Dog LeashAmazonWhile other leashes on this list are capable of withstanding dogs who tug, this shock-absorbing leash is specifically designed for pups who pull a lot. Each piece of the customized leash is reinforced to be extra tough, from the thick rope, to the sturdy metallic hook, to the rugged leather joints. Even the elastic bungee itself is extra strong and chew-resistant. The leash is lightweight yet stable with durable stitching and braided nylon rope. Its loop handle is padded for comfort and the main section features a reflective stripe for night walks. "My youngest Boxer (55 lbs) likes to try to take off after squirrels aka 'God's Tennis Balls' when I walk her," explained one Amazon customer. "(This) helps correct her while saving my shoulder. The bungee absorbs a lot of the sudden jerk."6Best For Two Dogs: A Two-In-One Convertible LeashYanaziHD Double Dog Leash With SwivelAmazonBuilt with a smooth, 360-degree swivel, the design of this handy double dog leash prevents tangling when your dogs cross back and forth in front of one another. Its cushioned handles are soft and comfortable to grip, while the shock-absorbent bungee cord material can be extended from 27 to 43 inches. While this leash can be converted and used as a single leash, there aren't quite as many reviews to speak to its shock-absorbing powers, which is why the best shock-absorbing leash above still wins the day for pullers. But, if you have two dogs, this leash has some of the best features of others on this list, and is strong enough for both puppies. One fan says, "My dogs and myself love the new leash!!!"7Also, Great: A Stylish Leather Leash That Can Carry Up To 500 PoundsFairwin Braided Leather Dog LeashAmazonWhether you want a leash with extra pull force or you just like the look of leather, this tough-but-classy training lead is a great option. The braided, handmade leash is constructed from 100 percent genuine leather that's been cut from a single piece. It showcases cooper alloy clips with high-grade plating and a stylish fashion clasp. Built for military grade training, it is exceptionally strong with an impressive tensile resistance that can carry 500 pounds of pull force. The best part is that even though it features thick leather, it weighs only 7.5 ounces. "VERY WELL MADE!" said one pleased customer. "This leash easily keeps me in control of my Pitbull, (it's) craftsmanship is impeccable. I really couldn't ask for a stronger leash, well worth the price!"Bustle may receive a portion of sales from products purchased from this article, which was created independently from Bustle's editorial and sales departments.

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