Long line handling

Long lines are a fantastic tool for giving dogs more freedom while we work on recall skills. However they can cause problems if we're not careful about how we use them.

Safety first!

Long lines must always be attached to the back clip of a well fitted, y-shaped harness that doesn't tighten or restrict your dogs movement in any way.

Never attach a long line to a collar. If your dog runs to the end of the line this could cause serious injury.

General Handling tips

- Gather the slack into your non-dominant hand. If you hold the slack, make sure to loop the line over your hand as pictured rather than wrapping it around your hand.

- Use your dominant hand to **keep the lead off the ground.** It should be soft (not tight) but not dragging on the floor.

- When your dog returns close to you, gather the slack back in to shorten the lead.

- If the line wraps around your dog's leg, let the line go slack and throw a treat to get your dog to move in whatever direction they need to to untangle themselves.

- If they get really angled up, take hold of the lead right next to where it clips to the harness. Drop the rest of the lead and gently pull it outward until it's untangled.

- If standing still, keep your legs a little braced incase your dog lunges forward rather than close together and straight. Be ready to move in any direction, so to absorb the impact from sudden rushing.

Preventing Pulling

- Keep your hands relaxed, especially when first setting off. The longline should be able to glide through your hands easily.

- If the lead goes tight or your dog suddenly rushes forward, take a firmer grip of the line to stop them. Stand still, and wait for them to take the pressure off before walking ahead.

Walking up the lead

- If your dog gets to the end of the lead and wont recall, walk up the lead to them.

- To do this, put both hands on the lead and step forward using a hand over hand motion to gather up the lead as you walk towards your dog.

- Keep a constant pressure on the lead so your dog can't move further forward, but don't pull them backward