



ADOPTERS' ADVICE AND INFORMATION

APRIL 2023

A CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO DO AS SOON AS YOUR DOG ARRIVES

(More info on all these points can be found later in this document)

- 1. It is a Defra regulation that all dogs brought into the UK are kept at the home address for the first 48 hours after arrival. Defra do 'spot checks', so please don't walk your dog outside your property until this time has elapsed.**
- 2. Check your details are correct on the PETtrac microchip information sent to you via email.**
- 3. Ensure your dog is wearing a collar with legally compliant ID tag when outside your home, even in your garden. Attach your GPS tracker too.**
- 4. Register your dog with the veterinary surgery of your choice and ensure you provide copies of all test results to your vet.**

INFORMATION FOR ADOPTERS

- These notes are intended to give guidance to adopters regarding the arrival and settling of your new family member.
- They are not a definitive assessment of each individual dog, but are designed to support you and your dog prior to and for the first few months after arrival. We try to cover everything that might be experienced when adopting a rescue, but not all the information will apply to your dog. Please print or store this adopters' information for future reference
- When you adopt a dog, once the adoption is complete, the dog is yours and you are fully responsible for their health and wellbeing.
- For all health issues and to keep vaccinations updated, you should consult a vet.
- If you encounter any behavioural issues, please inform us and consult a force-free, canine behaviourist. Griffon Rescue has a list of recommended canine behaviour specialists we will share on request.
- If your dog is a puppy or too young to spay/castrate in their country of origin, a deposit for neutering is applicable and will be refunded following presentation of the veterinary surgeon's receipt after the dog has been neutered - which for a female is 3 months after the first oestrous period and for a male, depending on the size of the dog, around 1 year old.
- All Griffon Rescue dogs are checked for 5 Mediterranean diseases and any necessary treatment is given prior to travelling to the UK. We now also test all dogs coming to the UK for Brucellosis. As a responsible rescue organisation, we will always let you know if your dog has any disease, disability or behavioural problem.
- If you adopt a dog, knowing that the dog has a disease, a physical defect, a mental or behavioural issue, Griffon Rescue cannot be held responsible for any costs associated with these conditions following adoption.

Do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any enquiries or require any further help or advice.



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TRAVELLING TO THE UK

- Your dog will travel from our shelter partners in Spain.
- Transportation is via a DEFRA registered company who specialise in moving dogs across Europe.
- The transport takes between 24 and 48 hours depending on where you live in the UK and traffic delays.
- Don't worry, there are plenty of stops along the way for the dogs to be exercised, fed and watered. But please remember, it is still a long time to be travelling and your dog may be feeling stiff and tired on arrival.
- Your dog will be accompanied by the necessary documents such as a Pet Passport and mandatory TRACES document.
- We request you send us a good, legible copy (preferably a scan) of your dog's TRACES document. This is so we can keep our files up to date and have a copy to give you, should you lose yours.

YOUR DOG

- You should have received some background on your dog when you first enquired. We provide as much as we know, but sadly, this is often very little. Many have been at the shelter some years, others may have been born there or entered as a puppy, some were given up by their previous owners, others were simply found wandering the streets.
- All Griffon Rescue dogs have been assessed prior to being made available for adoption, but it is good to remain aware that they can change once settled in a different home environment. Some can be very timid at first and may need time to adjust or grow in confidence.
- We find it is often better to treat your dog as you would a new puppy. Start as you mean to go on, by putting your required boundaries and routine in place from the first day.
- It can be very easy to feel sorry for your new dog and over-compensate. It's important to remember they are now in a loving, warm and caring home, with everything they need. What they need now from you is kind guidance while they get used to you and your routine.

SAFETY & TRAINING

- Remember consistency in training is key, and positive reinforcement will not only keep you and your dog safe, but it will also help you to form a strong, life-long bond with your new family member.
- Because of their past these dogs often have no or little recall and have not built any attachment to you - one of the most important factors is keeping them safe.
- Before your dog arrives, please ensure any outside space is safe and they cannot escape. If you are unsure of what you need to do, please don't hesitate to ask.
- Always keep them on a lead and harness. Griffon Rescue recommends using a harness as you have much more control of the dog (Figure 1). A two-lead system works well to begin with and until you get to know your dog. One lead attached to the collar and one to the harness so if one is dropped the other keeps control (See Figure 2).
- A slip lead is required to take them off the van as it slips over the head and cannot be pulled off by the dog. After that, never use the slip lead again, please.
- Take care to ensure your dog cannot escape when collecting. There have been cases of other rescue dogs going missing or being lost directly after coming off transport and we don't want this to happen to yours!
- Training in recall and other basic commands can begin as soon as you feel ready. Although your dog has been in Spain, they hear in tones and sounds so can easily pick up the English commands with the correct approach to training.



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- Do not let your dog off lead outside of your garden until you have 100% guaranteed recall.

IN THE HOME & TOILET TRAINING

- Some dogs have never lived in a home before and it's not always possible to know if they have. So again, take extra care that they can't escape through an open door, or window!
- Each dog is different - they may be scared when they arrive, but they can behave completely differently once they have settled.
- Please be aware your dog can be scared of things which for us are very common and familiar such as a vacuum cleaner, a hair dryer, television, a strimmer. Even the sound of cars or motorcycles passing your house may be new to them.
- Some may need coaxing to go into a house. Although this is less common, it's good to be aware of all or any possible behaviours where you may need to step in. It's worth having a few tasty training treats in your pocket to encourage them in if they're a little worried.
- Recognise that rescue dogs come with baggage and a past. Give them enough time to adjust to the new situation they find themselves in. Strange food, another language, different habits, weird weather, etc.
- You are making a lifetime commitment, so don't give up immediately if your dog takes more time to settle than expected. It may take weeks or months for your dog to feel completely confident with you. Your dog doesn't deserve to be quickly discarded if they don't immediately meet your expectations. After all, they have been chosen by you and have come such a long way to meet you.
- Once you understand their past and needs, you can work together on their future with you.
- When your dog first arrives and weather permitting, we recommend walking them around your garden on a lead to get them used to their new surroundings, and more importantly to ensure they toilet before entering the home. Use a command you wish to continue with for toileting, "busy, busy" is a good one. Have treats ready to reward your dog when he or she goes!
- If you need or want to let your dog see the house first this is fine, let them have a little look, then out into the garden, keeping them on the lead, and if possible, stay out there until they toilet and give lots of treats for doing their business.
- They will often urinate and defecate shortly after arrival. If not, then very quickly after eating. Make sure they have access to their outside toilet area with you around to give them confidence.
- Decide where your dog will sleep before arrival, a quiet place is better or a covered crate with the door removed, can help to make them feel safe.
- A few toys are good, but remember your dog may never have seen a toy and may even be scared of them, so no need to push, just leave them near the sleeping space. Toys with squeakers or which make other noises can be very frightening and/or cause hyper-arousal, especially for hunting breeds as they mimic the sound of squealing prey, so try to get ones without squeakers or remove them until your dog is more settled.
- A training course with a good, force-free trainer can help you to build a bond with your dog. A good trainer will help you to support your dog in becoming more self-confident in social situations.
- Once your dog is feeling more settled and confident, a visit to a dog park or other securely-fenced doggy playground can be fun, especially if you have no other resident dogs.
- While we understand that you will want to introduce your new dog to your friends and family, in order to give them time to get settled and used to their new surroundings, we advise you strongly not to invite visitors to your home or take your dog for trips to meet others – humans and dogs - for the first two weeks after arrival, as this may overwhelm them.



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- We recommend you do not visit your veterinary practice in the first couple of weeks either, unless something urgent occurs. However, we urge you to register your dog with a practice as soon as possible after their arrival (or even before), if you are not registered with a vet already. Ensure you pass copies of all the disease test results provided to you by Griffon Rescue. If you don't know which veterinary practice to register with, give your local animal rescue a call - they always know the best vets in the area or you can find a list of independent veterinary practices here: <https://www.independentveterinarypractices.co.uk>
- Your dog needs time to adapt to his new home, and you and your family need to adapt to him. The table below provides an overview of what you can expect in the first few months after your dog's arrival. Remember, these are just examples. Every dog is unique and so is every family.

1-8 weeks	8-16 weeks	4-8 months or longer as needed
To process the journey and the changes	To get used to your routine	To learn to feel at home
- Are afraid of anything and everything - Hide - Want to be left alone - Do not seek interaction - Don't want to walk on the lead or in the dark - Don't want to eat or drink - Test their boundaries	- Slowly get used to your daily routine - Getting to know their environment - Behavioural problems may appear - Fears are slowly overcome and begin to show more of their personality	- Feel more and more at home and at ease - Gain more and more confidence and trust in their owner(s) - Starting to develop a bond - Have mastered the new routine

**Be aware that the dog you adopted is not perfect.
Your dog doesn't expect you to be perfect either.**

INTRODUCING YOUR DOG IN HIS NEW HOME AND TO OTHER PETS

- Dogs settle into their new environment more quickly and easily if they are left alone to investigate for a few days, particularly if you have other resident pets. Leaving your new arrival to get to know their surroundings and any new four-legged companions can mean the difference between a successful introduction and a very difficult one.
- Allow your dogs to get to know each other with as little human interaction as possible. Even picking up and cuddling your new dog can interrupt them finding their social status with their new friend. Allow them space to get to know each other and understand each other's behaviour in their own time.
- If you have a resident dog(s) then we always ask that you introduce your new dog to them outside and on neutral territory during a walk. Letting a new dog straight into your home to come face to face with existing dogs can cause a very negative first impression that can be difficult to change.
- Letting them interact during a walk, giving treats to both dogs when they get close, praise for both for good behaviour together, all these things will go towards them getting on well.
- Take care to feed them separately for a while until you have established a feeding routine and seen how your dogs behave together at mealtimes.
- Make sure you do not allow your new dog to usurp your existing dog for your affection.
- Dogs live in the moment, so you don't need to over-compensate for their bad life before they came to you. Treat them the same as you would any other dog and give them boundaries from the



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moment they arrive. For example, if you don't want the dog to go upstairs or on the furniture, don't let them from day one.

- If you have told us about an existing cat, your dog will have passed his or her cat test. However, they can be excited when they arrive and may be more interested in your cat purely as part of their new environment.
- Have lots of treats to hand, every time your cat is in the same room or in sight of your new dog and your dog ignores the cat, then give your dog a treat. You can give a few treats while the cat is around the dog, but only so long as the dog behaves calmly around your cat.
- Always reward your dog for good, calm behaviour around your cat. He or she will quickly realise that having the cat around is a good thing. Ensure your cat is never 'trapped' in a room with the dog. You must be aware of how the cat may react as well as the dog. If your dog does react to your cat, then distract the dog and gently encourage the dog away by offering a reward for coming to you.

FEEDING

- Your dog has been fed the basic diet available. The shelter has very limited resources and all the dogs are cared for to the best of their ability, but with hundreds of dogs to feed and provide medical care for, it's a very difficult task.
- Just like us, if dogs eat inappropriate food, they will become overweight and/or suffer from health conditions in the long term, which could be avoided with a better quality, more biologically appropriate diet. Deciding which food to feed your dog should be based on providing the best food you can afford, that fits with your lifestyle.
- We suggest that you first decide what type of food fits best with your lifestyle (e.g. raw, tinned or dry) and what you can afford to pay - then use the All About Dog Food website (www.allaboutdogfood.co.uk) to help you decide which food provides the best nutrients to your dog, within your requirements. Avoid food or treats with lots of additives, your dog has never had these and they can cause an upset tummy. If ultra-processed foods (UPFs) aren't good for you, then they aren't good for your dog either.
- Try to avoid foods and treats that contain large amounts of carbohydrate or 'fillers' which provide bulk, but are of little nutritional value to your dog. These items are not biologically appropriate for dogs, do not contain nutrients they need, so can leave a dog hungry and can cause weight gain. Don't be fooled by price, some expensive, veterinary recommended foods are highly processed.
- On arrival with you, it is best to start them on a very bland diet for a few days – plain boiled chicken and rice is a good option.
- Once you've chosen the food you wish them to eat regularly, add a little each day or use as treats to get them used to it. It is not uncommon for your dog's first few poos to be a little softer or runny, if they are nervous, they can be soft for up to a week.
- Ensure fresh water is always available.
- **To reduce the risk of gastric torsion, ensure you do not exercise your dog for at least two hours after eating and half an hour before feeding.**

CHILDREN

- Your dog will have been child tested, if possible, but should NEVER be left alone with a child. As you get to know your dog you will both gain in confidence and you will be able to gauge when your dog wants to sleep, play or just be left alone.
- We would always ask that even with a child tested, calm, happy and loving dog, they are always supervised around young children, for the safety of both the child and the dog.



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If you have children or children who visit, please ensure you read Griffon Rescue's 'Children Around Dogs' leaflet which has been sent to you along with this advice. The leaflet gives you detailed information on how to keep children safe around dogs and the signals you should look for which shows when your dog is feeling stressed.

WALKS

- Please do not let your dog off lead in the first months after arrival.
- Some dogs, rescue or otherwise, can be trained with a very good recall and the owners feel confident to let them off lead. It is also common that some dogs can never be trusted off lead, but there are plenty of alternatives, such as longlines to give them more freedom or secure fenced fields which can be hired to let them run free.
- Safety for you and your dog is the most important consideration. If you don't feel confident your dog has 100% recall, then for the safety of everyone, do not let them off lead in unsecured areas. There's nothing so stressful, for you as well as for your dog, if they run away. It also can be dangerous for the dog, e.g. they might be hit by a car.
- Many people can't understand why their dog is still full of energy after a long walk. If you want a contented and relaxed dog, try making your walks about enriching your dog's experience of the world rather than about the miles covered, by going on a 'Sniffari'. Let your dog use his/her nose to lead you along the route he/she wants to go (so long as it's safe). Let them sniff what they want for as long as they want to (again, so long as it's safe). Build their confidence by letting them decide for themselves whether they want to approach something that they've not seen before and aren't sure about. Sniffaris are best done using a longline, in parks and woodlands, where your dog can explore safely and when you have plenty of time to just 'stop and smell the roses'.
- Remember that you don't have to take your dog out for a long walk if the weather is bad. Griffons are notorious for disliking wet weather. So long as they have enough time outside to do their business, there are other things you can do inside the home that are as tiring for a dog as a 5-mile run. Dogs can get just as tired by sniffing as they do through exercise – probably more so - so it's worth having some ideas and tools ready for those days that just aren't fun for anyone. Try sprinkling treats or their food onto a snuffle mat and let them search for them or get some canine brain training games and watch your dog work out how to solve the puzzle. For lots of easy ideas, take a look at the Canine Enrichment Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/canineenrichment/>).

GROOMING

- All wire-haired dogs need to be **hand-stripped**. As Griffons are wire-haired dogs, that means they need hand-stripping too.
- To do some grooming and to remove tangles at home, we advise you to use a good brush. To remove some loose hair, you can use an undercoat rake. If you're unsure, please just ask for advice or consult your local pet shop or groomer.
- **Never let a groomer use clippers on your Griffon's wire coat - this will ruin it!**
- *See examples on the Figure 7.*

ESCAPE MODE

- When your dog arrives with you, they will be extremely nervous and potentially, in 'escape-mode'. Therefore, we request that you:



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- purchase a GPS Pet Tracker and attach it to their collar at all times when they are outside the house. Apple AirTags can be useful in your home and garden, but may not be as reliable for tracking your dog as a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracker (Figure 5);
- ensure your dog is wearing a legally compliant collar and dog tag at all times when outside the home (Figures 4 & 6). The Control of Dogs Order (1992) mandates that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the owner's name (initial and surname), address and postcode engraved or written on it, or engraved on a dog identity tag. You may also wish to add your telephone number. It is up to you whether you include your dog's name on the collar. Some suggest leaving off the dog's name, so potential thieves cannot use a name to which the dog responds thereby displaying a false impression of ownership;
- a noiseless dog tag, e.g. made of silicone or leather, or one which slides onto the collar is preferable to metal tags. As a dog's hearing is much more sensitive than ours, jangling metal tags can be distracting and uncomfortable for your dog and can cause unneeded anxiety or hyperarousal (Figure 4).
- Never attach bells to your dog's collar, as the constant ringing can lead to hyper-arousal.
- Buy a well-fitted, safety harness (Figure 1). Never attach a lead to your dog's collar, as this can have a negative effect your dog's thyroid gland and neck muscles.
- Give your dog a bit more freedom when you're in fields or woodland, you could use a 7-metre longline (ones made of Biothane are very strong, waterproof and easy to wipe clean). It's better not to use this longline when you walk on streets where more control is needed;
- **NEVER to use flexi leads. The reason for this is that if you drop the heavy lead handle, the noise it makes when it hits the ground, could cause your dog to become spooked and run, dragging the heavy lead handle behind them, causing further noise, fear and flight response. See more reasons we don't recommend them here: <https://hartpets.org/10-reasons-not-to-use-a-retractable-leash/>**

SAFETY

For the dog's safety:

- please regularly check your fencing to ensure you have no gaps or foxholes;
- if you have a pool, inside or outside, take precautions so that your dog can't fall in the pool and doesn't drink or swallow the chemically treated/chlorinated water;
- never leave your dog unattended, even in your own garden – at least 6-8 dogs are stolen every day in the UK, many from their own homes.
- always walk your dog BEFORE you feed him, to prevent gastric torsion;
- when travelling in the car, make sure your dog is secure either in an anchored car crate or by a harness seat belt. Your car's insurance may be invalidated if your dog is not properly secured when travelling in your car. Never put your dog into a car boot;
- always keep toxic products such as cleaning agents, paint stuff, etc. in a closed cupboard.

INSURANCE

- Griffon Rescue undertakes tests and vaccinations to ensure you receive a healthy, happy dog. But as with any animal the unexpected can happen regarding illness.
- Griffon Rescue believes that pet insurance is an important part of responsible pet ownership that can provide a means to pay for vets' bills and other unexpected costs.
- Useful information to help you make a decision on the pet insurance can be found here: <https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/choosing-the-right-insurance/pet-insurance-guide/> and <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/insurance/cut-pet-insurance-costs/>



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DISEASES/HEALTH

- Your dog has travelled under the TRACES system in line with DEFRA regulations. Tests have been carried out to ensure there are no Mediterranean diseases present. Also flea and worm treatments will have been given.
- The final worming treatment has to be given two days prior to travel so this can also contribute to any soft or runny poos in the first days of arrival.
- They have been vaccinated against rabies and received other vaccinations required in the UK.
- If applicable, they will have been neutered several weeks before travel.
- Despite the fact that all Griffon Rescue dogs have tested negative for 4 or 5 Mediterranean diseases before travelling to you, you should take in account that such a test cannot give a lifetime guarantee that nothing can change after the dog is with you.
- We advise that despite a negative test result in the country from origin, always keep an eye on any changes in behaviour, fur, skin, appetite, defecation, etc. and report these to your veterinary surgeon if you have any concerns.
- Of course, these signs can have many causes. Dogs can be infected by fleas, ticks or whatever in the UK, but we advise you to have your dog's blood tested regularly, for example on a yearly basis. A good test for this is: SNAP 4Dx Plus-Test and SNAP Leishmania from the brand IDDEX.
- Griffon Rescue cannot be held responsible for a dog testing positive for a disease after adoption, if the blood test was negative when the dog was tested in the country of origin.
- Please keep an eye on your Griffon's ears. They're long and must be cleaned regularly. Take into account that this often isn't done in the country of origin, as sadly, the volunteers from a shelter often have very little time to give to each dog. Use a pet wipe or tissue to gently clean around, but not in, the ear canal. Do not stick anything in your dog's ear canal, not even a cotton bud, as it can cause dirt or infection to be pushed further into the ear. If your dog is displaying signs of an ear infection (constant head shaking or scratching at their ear), please seek veterinary advice.
- Good and regular grooming and cleaning of your dog's ears, eyes, anus, vulva and penis and paws, is a vital part of keeping your dog healthy.
- Don't underestimate how important a dog coat can be in supporting your dog in the prevention of arthritis and catching cold during wet and/or cold weather (Figure 3).
- When it's very warm outside:
 - to prevent a heat stroke or sore feet, never walk your dog during daytime. Take your dog out either early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are not so high;
 - if your dog is outside in the garden take care that he has a place to shelter in the shade and there should always be a bowl of water in a shady place.
- We advise you to have at least 2 water bowls at fixed places, for example one in the house and one outside. Water should be changed daily or more frequently if the water becomes dirty.
- Always have water available when you take your dog out in the car, either in a non-spill bowl or a dog travel water bottle/flask (Figure 8).

MICROCHIP

- Since 2016, it has been a legal requirement in the UK for all dogs to be microchipped. England, Scotland and Wales each have slightly different systems, but all require dogs to be microchipped and those chips to be registered on a government recognised database.
- As a requirement of the Pet Travel Scheme, all Griffon Rescue dogs are microchipped prior to travel to the UK. However, their microchips need to be registered to you and your address once they arrive in the UK.



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- **You don't need to do anything** as the cost of registration is included in your adoption donation. A member of the Griffon Rescue will register your dog's microchip with PETtrac as soon as they arrive in the UK and all the details will be automatically sent to you via email.
- Registering with PETtrac means you can make changes to the details attached to your dog's microchip, e.g. if you move house or change your mobile phone number.
- If anything changes, please remember to keep your details (address, phone numbers, etc.), up to date with PETtrac. It can help you to be promptly reunited with your dog should the worst happen and you accidentally get separated.

AT LAST

- You will have been added to the adopters' private group on Facebook – the Happy Griffons - where we'd be delighted if you would provide updates and any photos of your dog.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/277826535897097/?ref=group_header
- The fosters and volunteers in your dog's land of origin, work very hard to help us to rehome dogs and they develop strong attachments to the dogs they help. It is essential they can feel confident that the dogs are happy and cared for. There's nothing worse than not knowing where a dog is or whether it is safe when you prepared and sent him or her on their journey to the UK.
- We will provide you with a free booklet on "Adopting a Rescue Dog" by Lisa Tenzin-Dolma, which provides great advice for new adoptive families.
- You can listen to a podcast on "Settling your adopted rescue dog" [HERE](#).
- We are available to chat to at any time regarding any aspect of your adoption or any concerns you may have.
- Thank you for choosing to adopt with Griffon Rescue!

The Griffon Rescue UK Team



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Please see figures below for further advice.

Figure 1: A safe harness

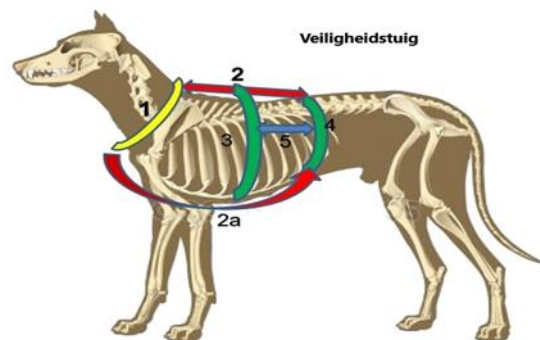
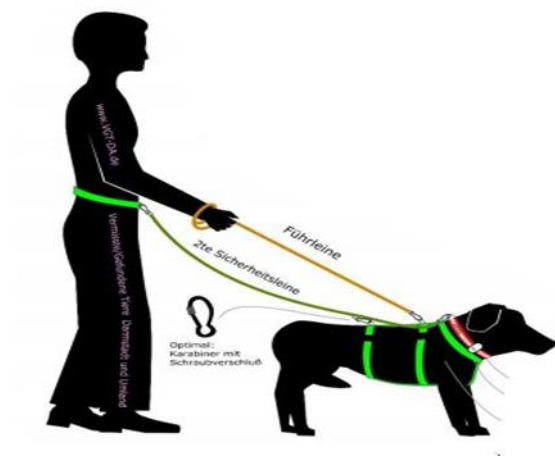


Figure 2: Double lead attachment



NEVER Flexi-leads

Figure 3: A warm coat





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Figure 4: Example noiseless silicone address tags



Figure 5: Example GPS Pet Trackers



Figure 6; Safe collar and leash





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Use a 7 meter longline to give your dog a bit more space

Figure 7: Grooming etc. We advise you to go to a good groomer as wirehaired dogs need to be handstripped. For at home use we suggest the following tools.



Undercoat rake which removes the old hair



Double sided brush



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NEVER use a clippers on wire-coat dogs



if you ever need to use scissors, buy one with rounded tips



Figure 8: Non spill water bowl or water flask. Not only for at home but also for in the car, camper, caravan etc.