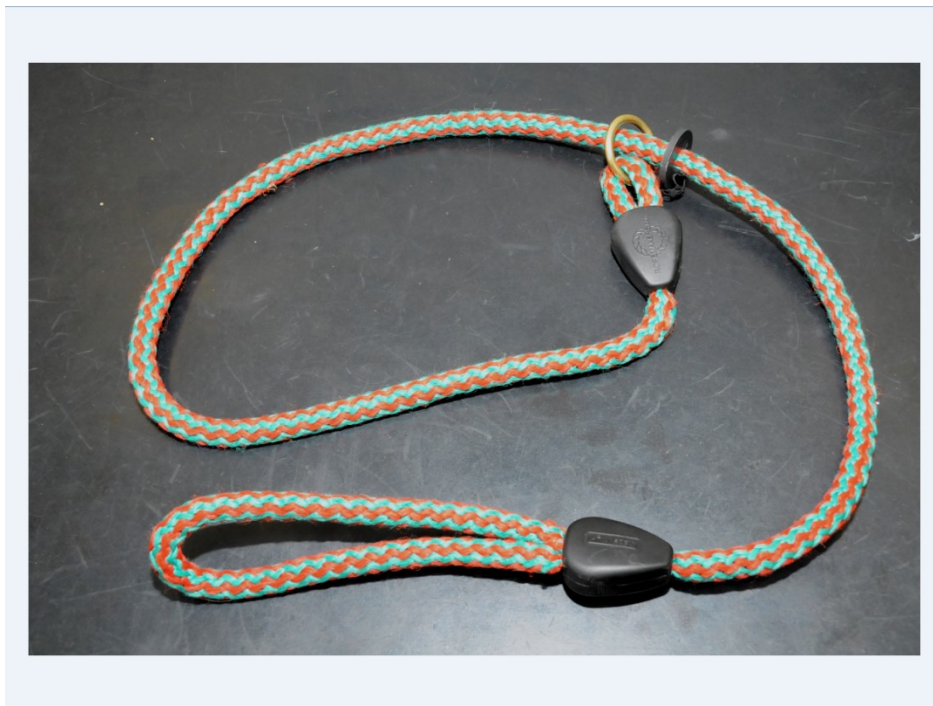


Using a Slip Lead



Disclaimer

A series of booklets has been developed by the Clinical Skills Lab team (staff, recent graduates and students) from the School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Bristol, UK. Please note:

- Each booklet illustrates one way to perform a skill and it is acknowledged that there are often other approaches. Before using the booklets students should check with their university or college whether the approach illustrated is acceptable in their context or whether an alternative method should be used.
- The booklets are made available in good faith and may be subject to changes.
- In using these booklets you must adopt safe working procedures and take your own risk assessments, checked by your university, college etc. The University of Bristol will not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from failure to adhere to such practices.

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Year Group: BVSc1 +



Equipment for this station:

- Dog model
- Slip lead

Considerations for this station:

- Applying the slip lead to a model before practising on a live dog will enable you to become familiar with the equipment and its correct use and application.
- There are useful videos on how to put a dog in a kennel and other aspects of dog handling on Blackboard. These can be found in the Animal Management 1 section → eLearning and then navigate to the relevant videos.
- Some hospital protocols require two leads to be applied to dogs (i.e. a collar & clip-on lead as well as a slip lead) for security when being moved or walked.

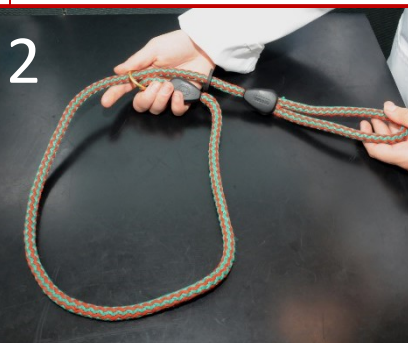
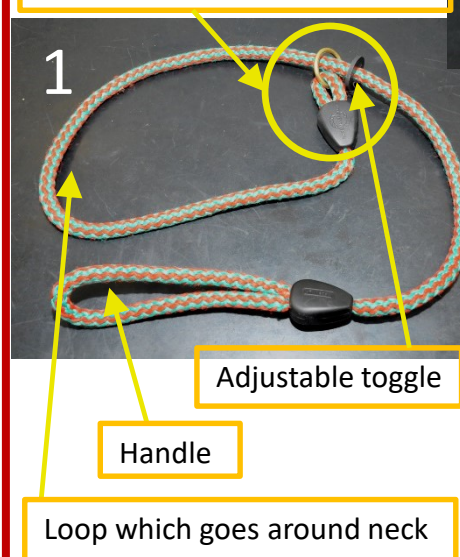
Anyone working in the Clinical Skills Lab must read the 'CSL_I01 Induction' and agree to abide by the 'CSL_I00 House Rules' & 'CSL_I02 Lab Area Rules'

Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.

Clinical Skills: Using a Slip Lead

Familiarise yourself with the parts of the slip lead and check that the toggle is mobile and can be adjusted as required.

Sliding section, which tightens around the dog's neck



Prepare the slip lead by creating a loop large enough to easily pass over the dog's head.

In readiness for applying the lead, ensure that the dog is aware of your presence.



Hold the loop (which will be passed over the dog's head) with your dominant hand.

It is best to hold the loop at the join (where the rope passes through the ring) to prevent the loop slipping (and changing size) when being placed on the dog. Hold the end of the lead with your non-dominant hand.



Quickly and smoothly pass the lead over the dog's head. Take care not to catch the dog with the lead as this may surprise the dog and cause it to move or jump.



Adjust the loop size and tighten by pulling on the end of the lead. Secure the loop at the correct size by sliding the toggle down the lead rope towards the ring (see red arrow in photo above).

Don't make the lead too tight. You should be able to easily place two fingers between the dog's neck and the lead loop.



To release a dog from a slip lead, loosen the toggle by sliding it towards the handle end of the lead (see blue arrow in photo above). This makes the loop bigger.

Then smoothly guide the loop over the dog's head. Take care not to catch the dog with the lead as this may surprise the dog and make it jump.



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Resetting the station: Using a Slip Lead

1. Remove the lead from the dog and place it back in the box ready for the next person.

Station ready for the next person:



Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.

I wish I'd known: Using a Slip Lead

- Make sure you know how to use the slip lead and check that the toggle is mobile before putting it on a dog, otherwise the dog may escape whilst you are adjusting the slip lead.
- It is helpful to use the model to practise using the equipment before applying a slip lead to a live dog.
- It is important to learn how to recognise behavioural signs i.e. what is normal as well as representing fear or aggression.
- N.B. When handling a dog, never kneel or sit on the floor, instead squat so that you can move quickly if required.



- Some hospitals and practices have a 'two leads' policy i.e. a collar & clip-on lead as well as a slip lead must both be applied to the dog. This is for security when the dog is being moved or walked as it may be unfamiliar with the surroundings and people and therefore more likely to try to escape or run away. Note: Make sure the dog's collar is tight enough such that it cannot be pulled over the dog's head e.g. if the dog pulls backwards or refuses to move and persuasion is required by gently pulling on the lead.