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Leashes and Walks

Many people love the “flexi-lead”. I don’t like them. Especially for a powerful, intelligent, German shepherd. Some say that you should use the four foot training lead for formal training and a flexi for walking so your dog can just have fun.

Well, your German shepherd just has fun just walking with you. And you should always be in training mode whether walking, feeding, greeting, etc. Think of a horse. Any serious horse person will tell you that when on trail, your horse must not be allowed to casually veer off trail to nibble on some vegetation. The same with your GSD. That behavior can lead to all sorts of problems: Like them eating something you can’t see until too late, them having undefined limits and maybe greeting someone that doesn’t want greeting, fights, dominance behavior etc.

When walking, your dog must be on the left, with their shoulder either at your hip or behind it.

They must not walk in front (dominance), or pull (dominance). They should walk on a loose lead and not run toward every animal that walks by. They should be alert at strangers, but not aggressive if you greet the stranger when they walk up.

So..... use the short lead for all walks and training. You are not denying them fun. They love just being with you. And their walk next to you is a sublime pleasure for them.

Remember, you are always in training mode with your German shepherd puppy or dog.