

## **7. Use and Abuse**

### **7.1 Check Chain**

- Never leave your dog's chain on when he/she is free running, as it may catch on something and choke him/her, or chip his/her teeth. Apart from this, it may fall off and be lost.
- Always check that the chain is placed correctly around the dog's neck. It is surprising how often it is not.
- Always hold your lead loosely so that the chain is not pulled tight around the dog's neck needlessly.

### **7.2 Play Collar**

- Always use a play collar with a medallion attached when free running your dog, so that you can be identified if he/she gets lost.
- Your dog should never wear the check chain and leather collar simultaneously, as they might become entangled and choke the dog. Also, if you need to give a correction, the wearing of the leather collar lessens the effect of the chain.

### **7.3 Harness**

- Your dog should never be free-run wearing his/her harness, either with or without the handle attached. Apart from being unnecessarily restricting for the dog, this habit causes adverse public reaction, and quite rightly so.
- At any time the dog is not working, the complete harness should be removed. This applies to car, bus, and rail travel. At times this is impractical, however, so if your journey is for ten minutes or less, it is permissible for the handle only to be detached.

### **7.4 Play Things**

Probably the most common play things for dogs are balls and sticks, but they are also the most dangerous: balls because, if caught in mid-air, they can get stuck behind the dog's back teeth and cause him/her to choke, and sticks because, if thrown, they might lodge in the ground like a spike and the dog may run straight onto them.

If you wish to use play items for your dog to chase, pull, or catch, try using a rubber ring, a large rubber bone, a dumbbell, or a short piece of fairly thick rope knotted at each end. These items are safer for all concerned, including your fellow users of the park!