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United States Patent	12389883
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 19, 2025
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Dog training device

Abstract

Devices and system are provided that can not only stop a pet from pulling its owner, but to train a pet over time to not pull while being walked on a leash. In an exemplary implementation, a removable cuff can be wrapped around the leach and maintained a position on the leash such that at least one of a plurality of nubs on exterior surface of the cuff can make contact with the armpit of the dog when the leash is pulled with sufficient force.

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Family ID:	1000008763575
Appl. No.:	18/745679
Filed:	June 17, 2024

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier	Publication Date
US 20240334911 A1	Oct. 10, 2024

Related U.S. Application Data

continuation-in-part parent-doc US 17497445 20211008 US 12022801 child-doc US 18745679
continuation-in-part parent-doc US 16588087 20190930 US 11140871 20211012 child-doc US 17497445
us-provisional-application US 62734598 20180921

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: A01K27/00 (20060101); A01K15/02 (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC **A01K27/005** (20130101); **A01K15/02** (20130101); **A01K27/001** (20130101);

Field of Classification Search

CPC: A01K (27/005); A01K (27/001); A01K (27/002); A01K (27/003); A01K (15/02); A01K (15/04)

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/497,445, filed Oct. 8, 2021, which claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/588,087, filed Sep. 30, 2019, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,140,871, issued Oct. 12, 2021, which claims priority to prior U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/734,598, filed Sep. 21, 2018, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of Disclosure
- (1) The present disclosure relates to devices for training and/or controlling domestic animals and pets, and in particular dogs.
2. Description of Related Art
- (2) Conventional dog training devices, such as choke collars and muzzle collars may require excessive force by the trainer to be effective and/or cause excessive discomfort to the dog. Furthermore, such devices may require custom or specially designed leashes of collars that may not be usable other than for training purposes.
- (3) Accordingly, there is a need for a device or system that can be used with conventional leashes and/or collars, and/or address at least the above-noted drawbacks of conventional training or control devices.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

- (4) Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure address at least these needs by providing a training device and system including a strap attachable to a front leg of a pet, and a guide configured with respect to the strap and the front leg of the pet for passing therethrough a leash

attached to a collar worn by the pet, whereby the leash is within the guide disposed between a handle of the leash and the collar, and the leash is removably attached to the front leg of the pet at the guide.

(5) According to an exemplary implementation of the disclosed embodiments, at least one of the guide and the strap achieves detachment from the leg of the pet when force between the handle of the leash and the collar exceeds a predetermined amount.

(6) According to another exemplary implementation of the disclosed embodiments, the strap can comprise a hook and loop fastener to facilitate said detachment from the leg of the pet.

(7) According to yet another exemplary implementation of the disclosed embodiments, the device and system can comprise a base configured with respect to said strap, wherein the guide comprises a removable attachment to said base to facilitate said detachment from the leg of the pet.

(8) According to still further exemplary implementation of the disclosed embodiments, the predetermined amount of force can be set based on at least one of the size and weight of the pet.

(9) According to another exemplary embodiment, a training device comprises a strap attachable to a front leg of a pet, and a guide configured with respect to the strap and the front leg of the pet for passing therethrough a leash attached to a collar worn by the pet, whereby the leash is within the guide disposed between a handle of the leash and the collar, and the strap is removably attached to the front leg of the pet. The strap achieves detachment from the leg of the pet when force between the handle of the leash and the collar exceeds a predetermined amount.

(10) According to an exemplary implementation of other disclosed embodiment, the strap can comprise a releasable fastener to facilitate the detachment of said strap from the leg of the pet.

(11) According to another exemplary implementation of other disclosed embodiment, wherein the strap further comprises a base and the guide is fixedly attached to the base.

(12) According to yet another exemplary implementation of other disclosed embodiment, the training device comprising a protrusion disposed with respect to at least one of the strap and the guide configured to apply pressure to a body of the pet proportional to the force between the handle of the leash and the collar. For example, the protrusion can be disposed on the guide such that, when the strap is configured on the front leg of the pet, the protrusion is between the front leg and the body of the pet.

(13) According to still another exemplary implementation of other disclosed embodiment, the guide comprises a loop attached to the base of the strap such that, when the strap is configured on the front leg of the pet, the loop is between the front leg and the body of the pet. The loop can be flexible.

(14) According to yet further exemplary implementation of other disclosed embodiment, the guide comprises a loop attached to the strap such that, when the strap is configured on the front leg of the pet, the loop is between the front leg and the body of the pet, and the protrusion is disposed on the loop.

(15) According to yet further exemplary implementation of yet another disclosed embodiment, the guide comprises a cuff configured to accommodate, for example to wrap around, a leash, the cuff comprising a plurality of nubs or protrusions on its outer surface and gripping components on its inner surface configured to maintain position of the cuff on the leash, such that at least one of the plurality of the nubs makes contact with the armpit of the dog when the leash is pulled with sufficient force.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) A more complete appreciation of the present disclosure and many of the attendant advantages thereof will be readily obtained as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings,

wherein

(2) FIG. 1 is a generalized illustration of a device and system according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure disposed on a pet.

(3) FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic illustration of a detail of components of a device and system according to an exemplary implementation of an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

(4) FIGS. 3 and 4 are diagrammatic illustrations of additional components of a device and system according to exemplary implementations of exemplary embodiments of the disclosure.

(5) FIGS. 5 and 6 are diagrammatic illustrations of attachments of various components of a device and system according to exemplary implementations of exemplary embodiments of the disclosure.

(6) FIGS. 7, 8 and 9 are diagrammatic illustrations of various complimentary structures for devices and systems according to exemplary implementations of exemplary embodiments of the disclosure.

(7) FIG. 10 is a generalized illustration of a device and system according to another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure disposed on a pet.

(8) FIG. 11 is a diagrammatic illustration of a detail of components of a device and system according to an exemplary implementation of another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

(9) FIG. 12 is diagrammatic illustrations of additional components of a device and system according to exemplary implementations of another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

(10) FIG. 13A is a diagrammatic illustration showing a perspective view of a detail of components of a device and system according to an exemplary implementation of yet another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

(11) FIG. 13B is a diagrammatic illustration showing another view of a detail of components of a device and system shown in an example of FIG. 13A according to an exemplary implementation of yet another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

(12) FIG. 13C is a diagrammatic illustration showing yet another view of a detail of components of a device and system shown in an example of FIG. 13A according to an exemplary implementation of yet another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

(13) FIG. 14 is diagrammatic illustrations of additional components and features of a device and system according to an exemplary implementations of yet another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

(14) FIG. 15 is a an illustration of a configuration of a device and system according to the yet another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure disposed on a pet and with respect to a person holding a leash with such a device and/or such a system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

(15) The matters defined in the description such as a detailed construction and elements are provided to assist in a comprehensive understanding of the embodiments of the disclosure and are merely exemplary. Accordingly, those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that various changes and modifications of the embodiments described herein can be made without departing from the scope and spirit of the disclosure.

(16) Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure will now be described in detail with reference to the annexed drawings. In the following description, a detailed description of known functions and configurations incorporated herein has been omitted for clarity and conciseness. Specific dimensions of various components provided in, or implied by, the drawings are to facilitate understanding of exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure.

(17) Referring to FIG. 1, exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure provide devices and system that can not only stop a dog from pulling its owner, but to train a dog over time to not pull while being walked on a leash. In an exemplary implementation, a cuff 30 can be wrapped around the highest point of either front leg of the dog, using, for example a hook and loop fastener and running a leash 10 through the sleeve or guide 60 on the outside of the cuff 30, so that an existing leash 10 can be run from the collar 20, under the inside of the leg and up to the owner's hand.

(18) In an exemplary implementation, when the dog lunges or pulls, the dog's front leg is lifted,

placing pressure on the dog's "armpit," causing the dog to lose leverage and naturally stop pulling. (19) According to an exemplary, non-limiting implementation, a detachable configuration, such as a tear-away, or releasable, hook and loop fastener, can create a "safety valve" that releases when the strength of the dog's pull creates a risk of injury. Exemplary implementations can provide for different strengths (sizes), based on the strength (weight) of the dog and correlating directly with the strength of the hook and loop.

(20) According to an exemplary, non-limiting implementation of a detachable configuration, the cuff can be attached using a hook and loop fastener such that the ability to "break away" (release) if there is a risk of the dog pulling so hard it may injure itself, still leaves the leash connected to the collar and the other end of the leash still in the owner's hand.

(21) Referring to FIG. 2, according to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, training system or cuff **30** comprises a base **50** and a guide **60**, which can be removably attached to base **50**, which facilitates removable attachment of leash **10** with respect to a front leg of pet **1**.

(22) Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, according to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, training system or cuff **30** comprises a leg strap **40** allowing cuff **30** to be wearable on, or configured with respect to, either left leg or right leg (as shown in FIG. 1) of pet **1**.

(23) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, base **50** can be attached to strap **40**, for example by means of passing through one or more loops **52** configured (e.g., fixed) with respect to lower surface **54** of base **50**. According to another exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, base **50** can be integrally formed with, or on, strap **40**, and/or guide **60** can be integrally formed with, or on, base **50**.

(24) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, strap **40** can comprise a flexible material so that it may expand and/or contract for secure attachment to a leg of pet **1**. According to another exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, strap **40** can comprise a length adjustment mechanism **42**, such as a buckle, a loop, a Velcro strap, or other means, for adjusting the length of strap **40**, as diagrammatically shown by arrow **44**, to facilitate secure attachment of strap **40** with base **50** to a leg of pet **1**. In an exemplary implementation, mechanism **42** can comprise the "break away" (release) configuration.

(25) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, guide **60** comprises one or more loops **62**, for example configured (e.g., fixed) with respect to upper surface **66** of guide **60** for passing leash **10** therethrough. In an exemplary implementations, loops **62** can be of fixed size for allowing free passage of leash **10** with respect to guide **60**. According to other exemplary implementations, loops **62** can be sized to restrict, or prevent movement of leash **10** with respect to guide **60**. According to yet another exemplary implementation, loops **62** can have a variable or adjustable size such that movement of leash **10** therethrough, and thereby with respect to guide **60**, can be unrestricted, restricted to various degree as desired, and/or prevented, which for example can facilitate varying and/or fixing distance **D** (see FIG. 1) of cuff **30** with respect to collar **20**, for example based on the size of pet **1**, and/or the training requirements.

(26) Referring to FIG. 1, according to an exemplary implementation, a system can further comprise a coiling cord **5** that can keep tension between the pet's collar **20** and the cuff **30**. This coiling cord **5** can be attached **15** to the cuff **30**, for example by a key ring, and attach **17** (**107** in FIG. 10 example) to the collar **20**, for example by a swivel trigger clip or similar attaching mechanism. In an exemplary implementation, a system including a coiling cord **5** can also comprise a "break away" (or a releasable) configuration **7**. Such a configuration can provide "break away" (or release) feature if there is a risk of the pet pulling so hard it may injure itself, while still leaving the leash **10** connected to the collar **20** at one end with the other end of the leash **10** still in the owner's hand. While FIG. 1 illustrates a coiling cord **5**, other means of creating enough tension between the collar and the cuff to keep the cuff up on the dog's leg can be used, such as a stretchable leash/belt/segment comprising an elasticized cord (e.g., a bungee).

(27) Referring to FIG. 2, according to yet another exemplary implementation, loops **62** can be fastened using hook and loop, so the leash **10** detaches (or releases) from the cuff **30**, with the leash still attached to the pet's collar **20**. In addition, the cuff **30** can remain attached to the leg and to the collar **20**, for example by way of a coiling configuration, such as a configuration described above with reference to an example of FIG. 1, which can be attached to the cuff **30** and run to the collar **20** to help keep enough tension between the cuff **30** and the collar **20**, so that the cuff **30** stays up in a desired location, such as the “armpit,” of the pet's leg.

(28) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, guide **60** and base **50** can be fixedly connected, or integrally formed such that detachment (i.e., “break away” or “release” function) is achieved by detachment of base **50** from strap **40**. According to another exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, guide **60** can be fixedly connected, or integrally formed with strap **40**, such that detachment (i.e., “break away” or “release” function) is achieved by detachment of strap **40** from leg of pet **1**.

(29) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, various configurations facilitating removable attachment of guide **60** and base **50**, which provides removable attachment of leash **10** with respect to a front leg of pet **1**, are possible as diagrammatically illustrate in FIGS. 5-9.

(30) Referring to FIGS. 5 and 6, according to an exemplary implementation, complementary sticky or engaging material (such as Velcro) **58** and **68** can be attached to, otherwise disposed on, and/or made part of, upper surface **56** of base **50** and lower surface **64** of guide **66**, respectively. In an exemplary implementation, varying degree of attachment can be achieved by varying the size of contact area **70** between materials **58** and **68**, which can thereby provide for a desired amount of force required to detach leash **10** from leg of pet **1**.

(31) Referring to FIGS. 7-9, according to another exemplary implementation, one or more complementary structures **88** and **98** can be attached to, otherwise disposed on, and/or made part of, upper surface **56** of base **50** and lower surface **64** of guide **66**, respectively. In an exemplary implementation, varying degree of attachment **80** can be achieved by varying the number of such structures used to connect base **50** and guide **60**, which can thereby provide for a desired amount of force required to detach leash **10** from leg of pet **1**.

(32) As illustrated in FIG. 8, according to an exemplary implementation, one or more complementary structures **88** and **98** can be formed by one or more complementary snap-fit structures **108** and **118**, whereby varying degree of attachment can be achieved by varying the number of such structures used to connect base **50** and guide **60** and/or varying resiliency of snap-fit connection **108** between one or more snap-fit structures **108** and **118**.

(33) As illustrated in FIG. 9, according to another exemplary implementation, one or more complementary structures **88** and **98** can be formed by one or more complementary magnets **128** and **138**, whereby varying degree of attachment can be achieved by varying the number of such structures used to connect base **50** and guide **60** and/or by deploying magnets of varying degree of magnetism **280** between one or more magnets **128** and **138**.

(34) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, guide **60** and base **50** can be fixedly connected, or integrally formed, such that detachment (i.e., “break away” or “release” function) can be achieved by detachment of base **50** from strap **40**. According to another exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, guide **60** can be fixedly connected, or integrally formed with strap **40**, with or without the use of base **50**, such that detachment (i.e., “break away” or “release” function) can be achieved by detachment of strap **40** from leg of pet **1**, for example by including mechanism **42** on strap **40** to facilitate detachment functionality.

(35) Referring to FIGS. 10-12, other exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure provide various other or modified devices and system that can facilitate stopping a dog from pulling its owner, and/or train a dog to not pull while being walked on a leash. In an exemplary

implementation, a cuff **1030** can be wrapped around the highest point of either front leg of the dog, using, for example a hook and loop fastener and running a leash **10** through the sleeve or guide **1062**, which can be implemented as an elastic loop attached on the outside of the cuff **1030**, so that an existing leash **10** can be run from the collar **20**, under the inside of the leg and up to the owner's hand.

(36) Referring to FIG. **12**, according to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, training system or cuff **1030** comprises a strap **1040** with an exterior surface **1056** and a base **1050**. Strap **1040** can be removably attached with respect to a front leg of pet **1**.

(37) In an exemplary implementation, removable attachment of strap **1040** comprises a detachable configuration **1064** to facilitate the removable attachment of strap **1040** with respect to a front leg of pet **1**

(38) According to an exemplary, non-limiting implementation, elastic loop **1062** can be attached, for example fixedly and/or directly **1061**, to a base **1050** of strap **1040**. While a single loop **1062** maybe sufficient, two or more loops can also be used within the scope of the disclosure.

(39) According to an exemplary, non-limiting implementation, a detachable configuration **1064**, such as VELCRO® type fitment, a tear-away, or releasable, hook and loop fastener, can create a “safety valve” that releases entire strap **1040** when the strength of the dog's pull creates a risk of injury. Exemplary implementations can provide for different strengths (sizes), based on the strength (weight) of the dog and correlating directly with the strength of the hook and loop.

(40) According to an exemplary, non-limiting implementation of a detachable configuration **1064**, the ability to “break away” (release) if there is a risk of the dog pulling so hard it may injure itself, still leaves the leash connected to the collar and the other end of the leash still in the owner's hand.

(41) Referring to FIGS. **11** and **12**, according to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, training system or cuff **1030** comprises comprising strap **1040** allows cuff **1030** to be wearable on, or configured with respect to, either left leg or right leg (as shown in FIG. **10**) of pet **1**.

(42) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, strap **1040** can comprise a flexible material so that it may expand and/or contract for secure attachment to a leg of pet **1**. According to another exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, a detachable configuration **1064** of strap **1040** can comprise a length adjustment mechanism, such as mechanism **42**, which can comprise the “break away” (release) configuration.

(43) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, loops **1062** can be of fixed size for allowing free passage of leash **10** with respect to strap **1040**. According to other exemplary implementations, loop **1062** can be sized to restrict, or prevent movement of leash **10** with respect to strap **1040**. According to yet another exemplary implementation, loop **1062** can have a variable or adjustable size such that movement of leash **10** therethrough, and thereby with respect to strap **1040**, can be unrestricted, restricted to various degree as desired, and/or prevented, which for example can facilitate varying and/or fixing distance D (see FIG. **10**) of cuff **1030** with respect to collar **20**, for example based on the size of pet **1**, and/or the training requirements.

(44) According to yet another exemplary implementation of the disclosure, cuff **1030** can comprise a protrusion **1065** configured to make contact with body of pet **1**, preferably at an area between the leg and body of pet **1**. In an exemplary implementation protrusion **1065** can comprise a base **1066** attached to loop **1062** as shown in FIG. **12**. In yet further exemplary implementation, protrusion **1065** comprises a smooth, for example rounded, outer surface, as further illustrated in the example of FIG. **12**. Protrusion **1065** is configured with respect to cuff **1030** such that it can apply gentle pressure to body of pet **1**, which pressure can be of varying strength, as leash **10** is pulled with respect to collar **20**.

(45) According to exemplary implementations, loop **1062** that the leash **10** goes through is only one loop, that is made of elastic, and attached at the top **1050** of the cuff **1032** only, so as to allow the leash **10** to come up under the armpit of pet **1** and cause pet **1** to stop pulling. Protrusion **1065**,

which can be called a “leverage neutralizer,” can comprise a little hard rubber or plastic nub (for example, about 2 to 4 inches tall) attached for example to the bottom of the elastic loop **1052** (see FIGS. **11** and **12**). This protrusion **1065** gently pushes up into the armpit of pet **1** to cause pet **1** to feel like it is losing balance/leverage and stop pulling, for example more than if it's just the leash **10** pulling up into the armpit of pet **1**.

(46) Referring to FIGS. **13A**, **13B**, **13C**, **14**, and **15**, according to exemplary implementations of another embodiment of the disclosure, training system or cuff **1200** can comprise a body **1210** including an inner surface **1201**, an outer surface **1203**, and a closure **1207** allowing cuff **1200** to be wearable on a leash **10**.

(47) According to an exemplary implementation, one or more protrusions **1204** can be configured on an outer surface **1203** of body **1210**.

(48) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, teeth or friction grips **1202** can be disposed on inner surface **1201** of body **1210** to secure cuff **1200** at a desired position on leash **10** when body **1210** is maintained in a closed configuration by closure **1207** (see, for example, FIG. **13A**) with leash **10** passing through a closed body **1210** (see, for example FIG. **14**) and in contact with inner surface **1201** of body **1210**. In exemplary implementations, closure **1207** can comprise a VELCRO® type fitment, a tear-away, a releasable hook and loop fastener, a buckle, or the like, which can comprise, for example and without limitation, components disposed on side one **1206** and/or on opposite side two **1205**, on either or both inner surface **1201** and/or outer surface **1203**, of body **1210**, as diagrammatically illustrated in the examples of FIGS. **13B** and **13C**.

(49) According to exemplary implementations of the embodiments of the disclosure, a device **1200** can be configured to wrap around a leash **10**, rather than the leg of a dog **1**. In an exemplary implementation, closure **1207** can be closed around the leash **10**, with, for example friction grips **1202** comprising small teeth on the inner surface **1201** in contact with leash **10** that can hold device **1200** in a desired position on the leash **10**, with the teeth **1202** not touching the dog **1** in any way.

(50) In an exemplary implementation, device **1200** can be positioned on the leash **10** such that at least one of nubs or protrusions **1204** can make contact with the armpit of the dog **1** when the leash **10** is pulled taut and/or leash **10** is pulled with sufficient force with respect to collar **20**, for example by dog **1** and/or person **1500**. In an exemplary implementation, protrusions **1204** can be made of bendable, rubber-like material, such that when device **1200** sits below the armpit of a dog, protrusions **1204** can tickle the armpit when leash **10** is pulled with sufficient force.

(51) In yet further exemplary implementation a loop **1400**, for example and without limitation made of soft, rubber or other material and/or such that loop **1400** is not visually prominent, can be, for example removably, attached to body **1210**. Loop **1400** can be secured with respect to leg of dog **1** to facilitate keeping device **1200** on leash **10** with respect to the armpit of the dog **1**. In further exemplary implementation, loop **1400** can be used in the beginning of dog training, but after the dog learns to heel, it doesn't need to be used anymore.

(52) While the disclosure has been shown and described with reference to a certain exemplary embodiment thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure as defined by the appended representative claims and the full scope of equivalents thereof.

Claims

1. A training device comprising: a cuff for passing therethrough a leash attached to a collar worn by the pet whereby the leash is within the cuff disposed between a handle of the leash and the collar; at least one protrusion on an outer surface of said cuff; and at least one gripping component on an inner surface of said cuff, said gripping component configured to contact said leash to maintain position of the cuff on said leash, such that said at least one protrusion on the outer surface of the

cuff makes contact with a body of the pet between a front leg and said body of said pet when the leash is pulled with a predetermined amount force.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the cuff is configured to be wrapped around the leash with the at least one gripping component on the inner surface of the cuff contacting the leash, the device further comprising a closure for maintaining the cuff wrapped around the leash.
 3. The device of claim 2, wherein said closure comprises a VELCRO® type fitment, a tear-away, or releasable hook and loop fastener, or a buckle.
 4. The device of claim 2, wherein said closure comprises components disposed on one or more sides of said cuff.
 5. The device of claim 2, wherein said closure comprises components disposed said inner surface, said outer surface, or said inner and outer surfaces.
 6. The device of claim 1, wherein said predetermined amount of force is set based on at least one of the size and weight of the pet.
 7. The device of claim 1, further said at least one protrusion is configured to apply pressure to the body of said pet proportional to said force between the handle of the leash and the collar.
 8. The device of claim 1, wherein said protrusion is disposed on said guide such that, when said strap is configure with respect to said front leg of said pet, said protrusion is between said front leg and said body of said pet.
 9. The device of claim 3, wherein said cuff comprises a loop attached to said outer surface of said cuff to be configure on said front leg of said pet.
 10. The device of claim 9, wherein said loop is flexible.
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