



# Animal Hospital

of Shawnee Hills

Healthy Pets Happy Hearts



At Animal Hospital of Shawnee Hills, safety for you and your pet are a high priority. To help keep you, your pet(s) and others in our facility safe, we have instituted a **ban on retractable leashes.**

When in our veterinary facility, retractable leashes allow multiple pets and people to interact with each other whom normally do not interact with each other. Owners have no control over their pets if the retractable leash is extended or if the lock becomes faulty. This can result in injury and/or permanent emotional damage on all involved. How? Here are just a few scenarios:

- Your dog may be friendly, but the other dog in the lobby may be aggressive or fearful and a fight may ensue.
- There could be children in the lobby who are fearful of dogs coming up to them or a cat waiting in a carrier who may be scared by a dog coming up to the front of his/her kennel to sniff.
- We have witnessed dogs slip right out the front door lobby as another client walks in all because the retractable leash wasn't locked. Thankfully, a speeding car wasn't right by the front door.
- You run into a friend or neighbor at our office and are catching up. While you're talking, your pet is busy wrapping the unlocked leash around the person trying to check out next to you. They fall and sustain a serious injury.

The above scenarios provide just a few reasons why we stand by our safety policy and retractable leash ban at AHSH. It is simply safer to stick to a good old fashioned 4- to 6-foot nylon or leather leash. Check out the following link and our blog for more hidden dangers of retractable leashes:

- <http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2014/06/11/retractable-dog-leash.aspx>
- <http://shawneehillsvet.com/6-reasons-to-trade-in-your-retractable-leash/>

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping your pet and others safe while at AHSH!



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