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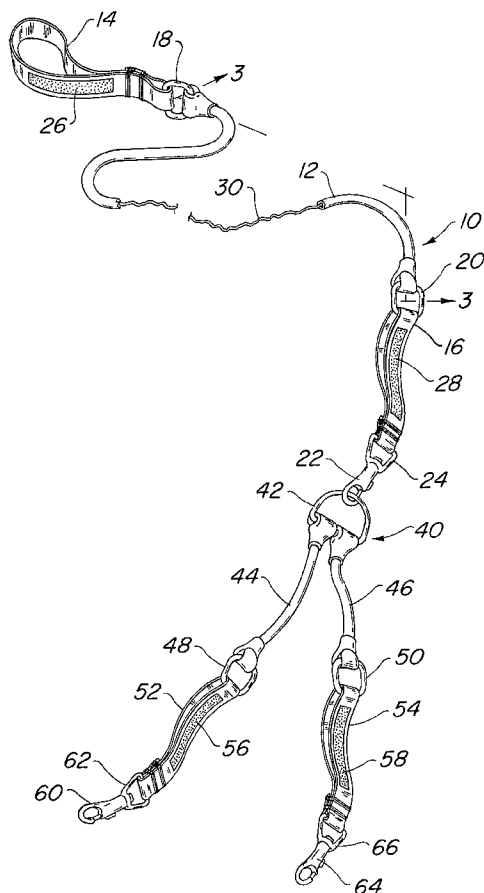
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
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(54) Title: ELASTIC DOG LEASH AND COUPLER



(57) Abstract: An elastic dog leash (10) and coupler (40) utilizes brightly colored florescent latex tubing (12) for a major portion of the leash and coupler. The tubing (12) is mounted between rings (18, 20). A monofilament nylon line (30) is mounted within the tubing and connected to the rings (18, 20). The monofilament line (30) has a length significantly greater than the unstretched length of the tubing (12), and limits the degree to which the tubing (12) may be stretched. With respect to the leash (10), a nonstretchable webbing handle (14) is attached at one end and a stop section (16) of the leash (10) is attached at the other end. The coupler (40) is comprised of a plurality of sections of tubing (44, 46) mounted to a ring (42), which may be attached to the end of the leash (10). The other ends of the tubing (44, 46) of the coupler (40) are provided with nonstretchable webbing material (52, 54) which may be utilized as a stop section for the coupler leash. The webbing material may be provided with a reflective stripe (56, 58) for additional safety at night.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US05/10091

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC: **A01K 27/00( 2006.01)**

USPC: 119/798,797  
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 U.S. : 119/798, 797, 792,793,795,770,856

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 Please See Continuation Sheet

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,467,437 B2 (DONOVAN et al.) 22 October 2002 (22.10.2002), see entire document.	1-19
A	US 6,460,488 B1 (MANZELLA et al.) 08 October 2002 (08.10.2002), see entire document.	1-20
A	US 6,006,699 A (KEEVER) 28 December 1999 (28.12.1999), see entire document.	1-19
A	US 5,915,336 A (WATSON) 29 June 1999 (29.06.1999), see entire document.	1-19
A	US 5,873,328 A (CAMPBELL) 23 February 1999 (23.02.1999), see entire document.	1-19
A	US 5,706,764 A (IRBINSKAS) 13 January 1998 (13.01.1998), see entire document.	1-19
A	US 4,993,366 A (SAGER) 19 February 1991 (19.02.1991), see entire document.	1-19

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&"	document member of the same patent family

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**International application No.  
PCT/US05/10091**C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2,737,154 A (MICHONSKI) 13 January 1955 (13.01.1955), see entire document.	1-19
Y	US 5,511,293 A (HUBBARD, JR. et al) 30 April 1996 (30.04.1996), column 2, lines 20-24.	20
Y	US 5,749,326 A (JONES et al.) 12 May 1998 (12.05.1998), column 3, lines 59-65.	20

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST BRS search terms: \$stretch\$4, nonstretch\$4, leash, tether, tube, tubing, cord, rope, \$elastic\$4, nonelastic\$4, line, latex, rubber