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(54) **PET COLLAR WITH RETRACTABLE LEASH**

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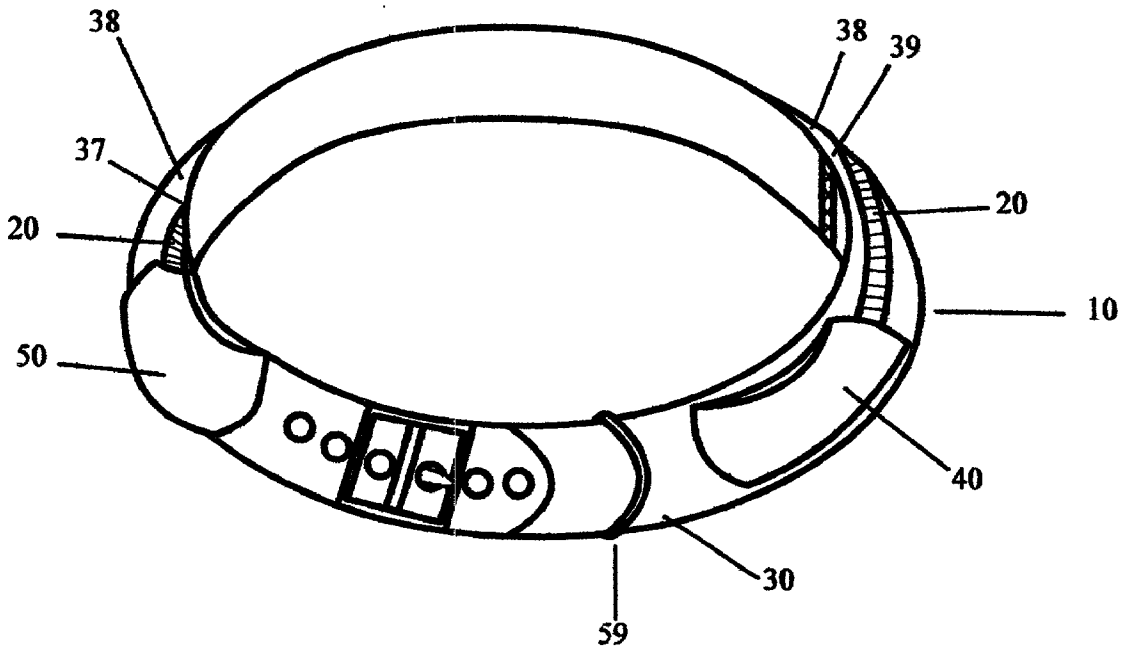
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A pet collar with retractable leash allowing for continuous easy access of the leash handle to the pet owner.

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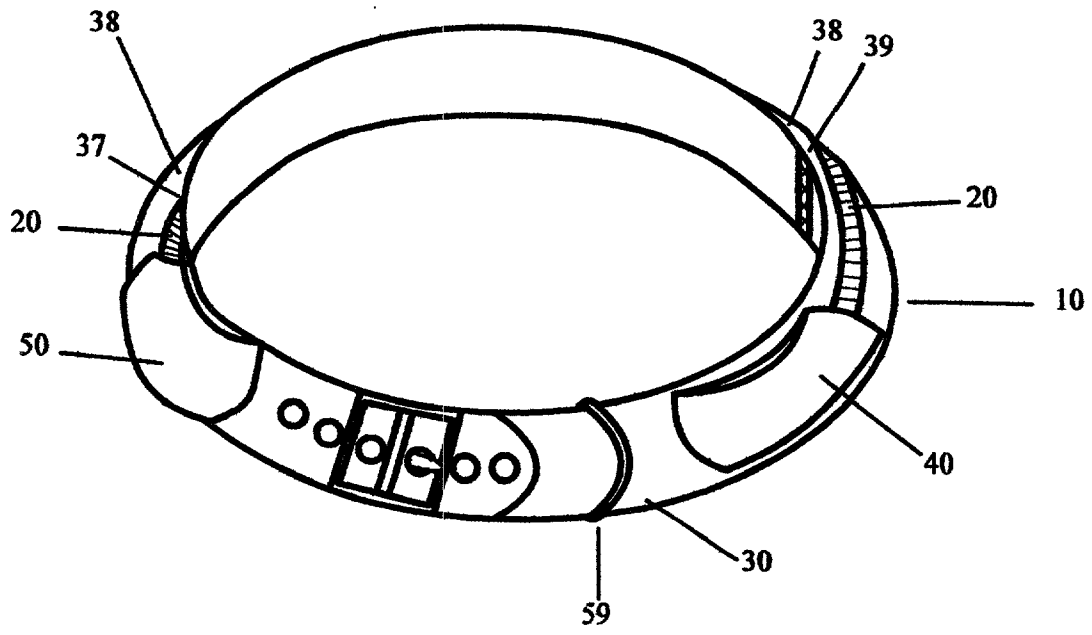


FIG. 1

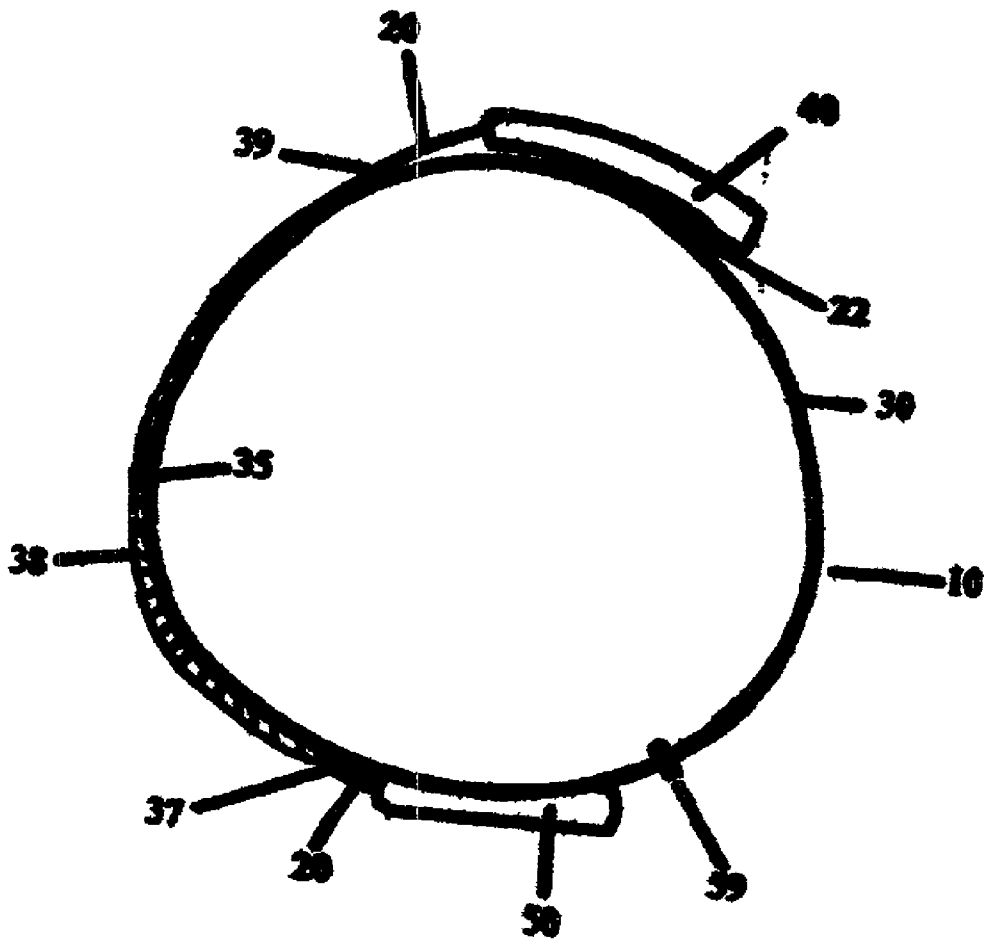


FIG. 2

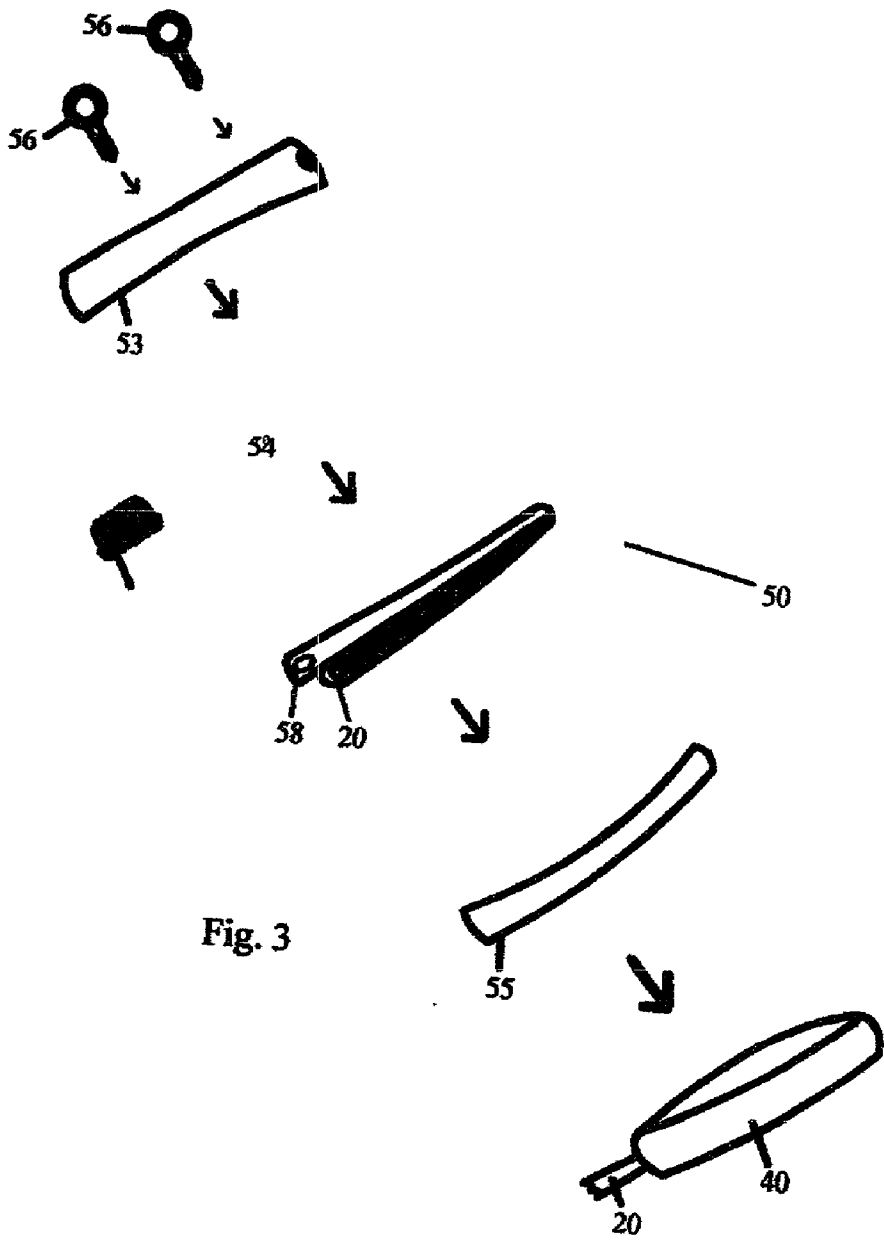


Fig. 3

## PET COLLAR WITH RETRACTABLE LEASH

### RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present invention is a continuation of Disclosure Document Number 482,854 filed on Nov. 20, 2000.

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to pet care products and accessories. More specifically, the present invention relates to pet care products and accessories used to walk pets.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The act of walking a pet is a pleasure enjoyed by many. In city settings, it is often a necessity for dog owners to walk their dogs. Leash laws are common in many urban and rural cities, alike. Often, the simple task of walking one's pet can turn into a frustrating endeavor when one cannot find the pet's leash. The task is made much easier and less frustrating when the leash is easily found. The majority of pet walking apparatus in existence today require a collar and separate leash and the leash cannot stay attached to the pet when not in use, because it would hinder the mobility of the animal as well as allow the user's handle to become soiled.

[0004] A leash/collar combination has been disclosed. U.S. Pat. No. 5,816,198 issued to Peterson and entitled Counterweighted Pet Leash Retracting Collar discloses a pet collar with a reflective strip, a leash, a counterweight and a leash retractor. The counterweight is needed in the '198 Patent to counterbalance the weight of the leash retractor and to ensure that the leash handle always comes to rest on the back of the animal's neck where it is easy for the user to access the leash handle. The extra weight can be cumbersome to the animal wearer.

[0005] Accordingly, a need exists for a simple, integrated lightweight collar and leash combination. The present invention fulfills this need.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention is a collar with an integrated retractable leash. The pet collar with retractable leash is arranged so that no counterweights are necessary. The leash feeds through a portion of the collar into a casing that stores the majority of the leash when not in use. The casing holds a coiled spring that is coupled to one end of the leash and provides the leash with its retractability. The opposite end of the leash forms a handle and is removably attached to the outside of the collar for easy accessibility. The collar portion of the pet collar with retractable leash is adjustable and the leash portion can be any number of lengths preferred by the user. The collar with integrated retractable leash also has a ring that allows it to be used with a conventional leash.

[0007] It is the primary object of this invention to provide a pet walking apparatus wherein the pet collar and leash are integrated for easy accessibility of the leash to the user.

[0008] It is a further object of this invention to provide a pet collar with a retractable leash.

[0009] It is a further object of this invention to provide a pet collar with a retractable leash that is compact, durable and lightweight so as not to discomfort the animal wearer.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] The advantages and features of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following more detailed description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like elements are identified with like symbols, and in which:

[0011] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view of the pet collar with retractable leash.

[0012] **FIG. 2** is a front view of the pet collar with retractable leash.

[0013] **FIG. 3** is an exploded view of the recoil mechanism.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0014] As seen in **FIGS. 1 and 2**, in the preferred embodiment, the pet collar with retractable leash **10** is a pet collar **30** and retractable leash **20** combination wherein the retractable leash **20** is fed through a pouch **35** attached to the outside of the collar **30**, such that it becomes a part of the collar **30**. The pouch **35** is preferably a cut of nylon for a nylon leash, leather for a leather leash, etc. that is fastened to the collar **30** along the longest edges of the pouch **35** leaving both ends open. It is preferred that the retractable leash **20** is made of aircraft strength steel cable, although one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the retractable leash **20** could be made out of a number of different materials, including but not limited to, nylon. In the preferred embodiment the collar **30** is adjustable so as to comfortably fit the neck of the animal wearer. In the preferred embodiment, the collar **30** is made out of nylon. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize, however, that any number of materials could be used to construct the collar **30**, including, but not limited to leather, as long as the material is comfortable and pliable so as to form fit the neck of the animal wearer without irritating the animal wearer. In the preferred embodiment, located at the first end **37** of the pouch **35** is a case **52** that houses a recoil mechanism **50**. Because of its wight, the case **52** is always located under the animal wearer's head. In the preferred embodiment, the pouch **35** is large enough to allow the retractable leash **20** to easily move therethrough, but small enough to prevent the leash handle **40**, located outside of the pouch **35** near the second end **39** of the pouch **35**, from going therethrough. It is preferred that the pouch **35** be of a length sufficient for the leash handle **40** to be located on the back of the animal wearer's neck for easy access to the pet owner. In the preferred embodiment, the leash handle **40** is removably fastened to the pet collar **30** above the second opening **39**. Any number of a variety of materials can be used to removably fasten the leash handle **40** to the pet collar **30**, including but not limited to velcro, snaps, buttons, etc. It is preferred that the leash handle **40** be constructed of a material such as leather that is comfortable for the pet owner to grip. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that the leash handle **40** can be constructed of a number of different materials, including, but not limited to nylon. The preferred embodiment also has a second ring **59**, preferably made of metal, that is attached to the collar for easy use of another, separate leash for general use.

[0015] As shown in **FIG. 3**, in the preferred embodiment, the recoil mechanism **50** consists of a case **52** having a

storage part **53** and a lid **55**, devised to store the majority of the leash **20** when not in use. The recoil mechanism **50** also has a coiled spring **54** and clasps **56**, devised to attach the case **52** to the pet collar **30**. It is preferred that the case **52** is constructed from plastic, although one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that other lightweight, weather resistant materials are feasible. In the preferred embodiment, the coiled spring **54** is located within the case **52** and is attached to one end of the leash **20**. It is preferred that the spring **54** is attached to the leash **20** via an aperture **58** in the leash **20** through which the spring **54** is partially inserted. Once the spring **54** is partially inserted, the aperture **58** is welded closed. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that there are other ways by which the spring **54** could be attached to the retractable leash **20**, including, but not limited to, the use of an adhesive. The coiled spring **54** works to pull the retractable leash **20** back into the case **52** when the retractable leash **20** is not in use. In the preferred embodiment, the clasps **56** fasten the case **52** to the pet collar **30**. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the clasps can be of any number of different fastening devices, including, but not limited to, metal clasps.

[0016] Although this invention has certain preferred embodiments, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the invention, and all such changes and modifications are intended to fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claim is:

1. A pet collar with retractable leash having:

- a collar, said collar having an inner side and an outer side;
- a pouch attached to the outer side of said collar, said pouch having a first opened end and a second opened end;

a retractable leash fed through said pouch, said retractable leash having a handle outside of said pouch located near the first opened end of the pouch; and,

a case for storing the retractable leash, said case located at the second opened end of the pouch.

2. The pet collar with retractable leash of claim 1 wherein the handle of said retractable leash is removably attached to said collar.

3. The pet collar with retractable leash of claim 1 wherein said collar is adjustable.

4. A pet collar with retractable leash having:

a collar, said collar having an inner side and an outer side;

a pouch attached to the outer side of said collar, said pouch having a first opened end and a second opened end;

a retractable leash fed through said pouch, said retractable leash having a handle outside of said pouch located near the first opened end of the pouch;

a case for storing the retractable leash, said case located at the second opened end of the pouch; and,

a ring encircled around said collar for attaching a separate pet leash.

5. The pet collar with retractable leash of claim 4, wherein the handle of said retractable leash is removably attached to said collar.

6. The pet collar with retractable leash of claim 4, wherein said collar is adjustable.

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