

Tethering poultry

By Richard Oakey (Granpa)



Above image is of the tether attached to a Large cockerel breeding Silver Laced Wyandotte



Above image shows two Silver Laced Roosters getting along with each other at a distance using the tethering system 🤔

For those people interested; the photos below shows a complete tether, and the four individual components that are used to make up a tether. At the outset let me say poultry tethers are not an original idea, as Game breeders in America, and possibly Australia have been using them for many years, I also believe they are widely used on domestic fowl, and even captured birds of the wild (i.e. Parrots on stands) throughout Indonesia and many Asian countries. The tether we use is as light as I can get it, as in reality it is a restraint, and for the birds to accept it happily, it must cause them no discomfort.

TO MAKE THE TETHER:- You Need

- 1) A Small, but strong metal ring. (As the pic shows I use a key ring)
- 2) 4 ft. (1.20m) Light nylon cord. Do not make it too long.
- 3) A light but strong swivel (I use one designed for fishing lures, it has a breaking strain of 45 lb).
- 4) A piece of light soft leather. approximately 8-9 inches long, and 1inch wide, with as can be seen in the pic a slit at either end. I got mine from a harness maker, it is of a type they use to line saddles. Whip makers Kangaroo hide would be just as good, but do not recommend any synthetic material

PUTTING THE TETHER TOGETHER:-

The pic is fairly self explanatory, but be sure to tie the key ring and swivel using a non slip knot, I use a bowline knot(Boy Scouts would Know what that is) and I check it every time I use the tether. Push one end of the leather Strap through the end of the swivel where the Lure would be fixed and loop it through the slit on that end, then loop the tether through the other end of the strap to give the loop for the birds I leg.

USING THE TETHER :-

Slip the loop over the birds foot and locate it above the spur and pull the loop up firmly (not too tight, and make sure it is flat against the leg. Slip the ring on the other end of the cord over the peg (the peg should be bent at the top like a U so as the ring will not lift off easily. Carry the bird to the end of the cord, and place him on the ground without having too much slack in the cord. When picking the bird up, walk out to him on the cord, taking up the slack, and pick him up quietly with two hands, then go back to peg, slip the ring off the peg, then gently loosen the loop, and remove the tether.

SOME DON'TS: _

- 1)** Do not tether the bird in a traffic area.
- 2)** Do not tether where neighbours or stray dogs can get at them.
- 3)** Do not allow small children access to the area where the birds are tethered.
- 4)** Do not tether for long periods, 3-4 hours is plenty.
- 5)** Do not tether and forget them, check at regular intervals, if possible tether where you can pretty well keep a constant eye on them.

Finally let me say these are the methods that I have found work for us, and our birds enjoy the time out in the sun. Commonsense is all that is needed for anybody to achieve the same results.

