



Beginners Loose Lead Walking

Practical Uses

Teaching a dog to walk on a loose lead is essential if you want to be able to enjoy walking with your dog. Nobody likes to be dragged around by a 40 kilo dog!

Teaching your dog to walk on a loose lead also assures that his attention is where it ought to be, **ON YOU!**

Unfortunately most owners have inadvertently **TAUGHT** their dogs to pull on lead. You do this whenever your dog pulls and you follow! This teaches your dog that dragging a human is how to get where it wants to go.

Retraining a dog that has been taught to pull on lead is an exercise in patience and tolerance. Remember **YOU** taught your dog to pull in the first place. Do not blame the dog.



Remember: Behaviour that is rewarded is repeated!

Method

1. Remember that whenever the leash is attached to your dog you ARE training! Until your dog learns to walk without pulling EVERYTIME you have the leash attached you are in a training session.
2. You will be more successful if you find a way to tire your dog out a little BEFORE you put the lead on. Play a game of fetch, or drive your dog to the dog park for a short romp with his mates before you begin your training.
3. NEVER torment and hype up your dog before taking him for a walk. Many owners tease their dog and rev it up before a walk. A hyped up dog WILL NOT walk nicely!
4. If your dog gets wildly excited by the mere sight of the lead you must start your training at this point. DO NOT put the lead on if your dog is not sitting nicely. DO NOT open the door if your dog is not sitting nicely.
5. You must never pull on the lead, 'steer' or guide your dog with the lead. If you pull, your dog will also pull.
6. **DO NOT MOVE FORWARD IF THERE IS ANY TENSION ON THE LEAD!** If your dog pulls on the leash at all **STOP!** Be a tree do not say anything.



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7. Stand still and quiet and wait for your dog turn his head toward you to see why you stopped; this will create some slack in the lead, mark and reward. Continue on with your walk.
8. Repeat until your dog begins to understand that a loose lead is essential to his progress forward.

Troubleshooting

1. **Your dog will not look back at you.**
Take a few of steps backwards. Mark and reward the second your dog looks at you.
2. **Your dog stops constantly to read the pee-mail and urinate.**
Keep walking at a brisk pace. Do not teach your dog that you will stop for anything that takes his fancy.
3. **Your dog is very distracted**
Practice in a less distracting environment initially. Deal with intent wherever possible. If you see his interest pricked by something do an about-turn. Teach him to follow you.



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