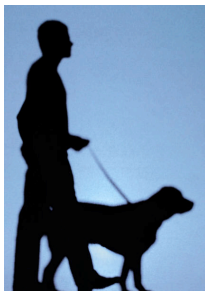


Loose Leash Walking



Many dog owners complain that every time they take their dog for a walk, it feels like a speeding train is pulling them. As a consequence, some dog owners avoid taking their dogs on any walks, or they only rely on head halters, harnesses and prong collars to control their dogs. It can be very frustrating to have your dog walk you, instead of the other way around, and this handout is designed to help you teach your dog how to walk on a loose leash.

Training Your Dog to Walk on a Loose Leash

What you need: A martingale or flat buckle collar, leash, really tasty treats and patience!

Step 1: Once your dog's collar and leash are on, walk her to the door. Do not get too excited about it, because your dog may associate over-excitement with going on a walk. This will make it more difficult to achieve a nice calm walk with her. Ask your dog to sit at the door.

Step 2: Make sure that you are first out of the door. If your dog decides to take control and wants to walk in another direction, (her own), then walk in the opposite direction.

Important! Do not talk to your dog. Your movements will speak for you. Your dog may even have a look like, "what the heck's going on? Where are you going? I thought I was running the show!" If your dog acts confused, that's okay. Now she HAS to focus on you because you are leading the way.

Step 3: Every time the leash starts to go taut, go in the opposite direction, or stand completely still. Do not give her attention. Only when she looks back at you and the leash becomes loose, can you begin moving forward again. Letting her move forward is actually her reward for NOT pulling you around!

Step 4: Stay consistent, be patient, and don't give up!

Points to Remember:

- Never follow your dog's direction.
- If you know that your dog gets really excited near dog parks or walking with neighbors, wait until your dog is comfortable walking on a loose leash before you try his skills in over-stimulating situations.
- Make sure that everyone who walks your dog are consistent with the training methods you decide to use.
- Loose leash walking takes time to perfect. Do not worry if you don't get any farther than half way down the block before going in circles. It is truly worth the time and effort, and don't forget to enjoy training sessions with your dog!