

Teaching your dog to walk nicely on a loose lead (no pressure or pulling) will help set you and your dog up for an enjoyable experience when going for a walk. This exercise will help to teach your dog that being close while on the lead is the most rewarding place to be. It is important to remember to reinforce frequently to keep your dog close and engaged.

Once your dog has learnt the exercise, you may begin to use a varied schedule of reinforcement.

It is important to remember to begin teaching your dog this exercise in an environment with very little distraction, such as your lounge room. Over time, gradually increase the level of distraction.

RECOMMENDED TRAINING EQUIPMENT:

- Front attaching or balance harness



These harnesses are easily accepted by the majority of dogs. They are available in different sizes, and are easy to fit, use and adjust. Importantly, they can help with lead pulling as the owner can guide the dog in a different direction using the front attachment.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Step one:** Begin with your dog facing you.
- Step two:** Take one or two steps away from your dog, as your dog follows you bridge and reward.
- Step three:** Begin to move in different directions and reward your dog for following you.
- Step four:** When your dog is following enthusiastically you can turn your body to the side and encourage him to walk beside you, remember to use a high rate of reinforcement to keep your dog engaged.
- Step five:** Begin walking in a straight line, rewarding your dog for remaining on a loose lead, you may need to reward every step in the beginning.
- Step six:** Gradually increase the number of steps taken in between rewards, if your dog disengages it is likely you have waited too long before rewarding.

TIP



Avoid using aversive equipment such as check chains. They provide a painful stimulus to the dog and do not show them what you would like them to do.

More questions? Need help?

Email our professional behaviour trainers on
petsquad@dogshome.com

Since our official opening in 1913, we have been a voice for animals without owners caring for thousands of cats and dogs each year. Pioneers for fair animal laws, we continue to work on the front line to reduce the number of lost, abandoned and stray cats and dogs.

We rely on public support to run services and programs, including: proactive adoption, foster care, behaviour rehabilitation, low cost desexing and microchipping, and the promotion of better pet ownership through education.