

Teaching Your Dog to Walk Nicely on a Leash

Every dog needs to know how to walk politely on leash. Training this shouldn't resemble a game of tug of war. Use a clip to connect the leash to your belt, which will prevent you from pulling on the leash, leave your hands free, and keep the leash length consistent. Strive to have a "J" or "U" shaped slack section in the leash. Teach this skill in a small space without distractions. Add difficulty and distractions slowly.

STEP 1

Begin by rewarding your dog when sitting in the correct position—on your left side, facing the same direction as you. Next, take a step forward. When your dog follows, say "Yes!" and treat. Repeat.



STEP 2

Once you can take a step, add some distance: take more steps between treats. Take two steps, mark with "Yes!" and treat, then stop. Add one more step each time. If your dog pulls on the leash, simply stop, then go back to fewer steps.



TRAINER TIP:

Take a long handled wooden spoon and smear peanut butter or canned cheese on one side. Use it to lure and reinforce your dog for walking with you. As you walk, allow your dog to lick the spoon a few times before pulling the it away.

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