

# Tips and Techniques

## WALKING ON LEASH

Using the correct tools will help teach your dog to walk nicely on a leash. Our recommended training tool is the “Wonder Walker” harness (contact us for more information on this tool). Specially designed to clip at the front of the dog and pull sideways when they pull, uses a more gentle way of teaching the dog that “when I pull, I walk sideways, but when I walk nicely, I move forward and go where I want to go.”

- Use the Wonder Walker during all walking sessions with the leash attached to the front clip. Only move the leash to top ring on back when the dog is walking nicely 100% of the time during walks. If they start to pull again, attach to the front clip again.

Make the leash shorter and move your dog to one side (either left for right, just be consistent each time)

Ask your dog to “heel” and start to walk forward BUT when your dogs starts to pull on the leash, STOP, in your tracks and stand like you are a wood pole cemented into the ground. As soon as the leash goes slack, click then treat and move forward. If leash goes tight again, STOP, and stand like a pole. Sometimes this might take 15 minutes and only a few steps forward but the idea is that the dog understands the REWARD is to move forward and when he/she doesn’t pull, they get to move forward. The light bulb will go on, be patient.

- Praise when walking to your side, click then treat when he/she is moving forward and not pulling. Timing is critical with this.
- The dog does not have the chance to sniff unless you have given it that “free time” when he/she has EARNED it. This means, when the dog has walked forward without pulling for at least 5 minutes. Then say “FREE” and give slack in the leash letting it out to the full 6 ft. Let your dog sniff around with a loose leash. After 5 minutes, say “All done, let’s go”, shorten the leash again and start to move forward with the dog to your side Do not stop, the dog will have to follow you. Keep moving forward even if he/she still wants to sniff. Every 5–10 minutes of good walking, repeat this exercise. Don’t be a robot, change where and how long each “sniffing” session is.

This exercise will teach the dog that walking is the reward and fun, sniffing is the reward. Soon the dog will not be interested in the sniffing but want to walk with you and move forward.



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