



## Walking Politely On Leash

Dogs learn quickly that if they pull on leash, we will follow them. Teaching your dog to walk on a loose leash will make walks more enjoyable for both of you.

### Management

Every time your dog gets where he wants to go by pulling, he learns that pulling works, so it is important to manage his behavior on leash any time you aren't prepared to work on polite leash walking. The following are management options:

- Hold a handful of treats on your dog's nose to get him short distances without pulling, such as into training class, the vet's office, or groomer.
- If your dog is small enough, carry him.
- If you don't need to take your dog on long walks for exercise or to potty, just take short walks until he can walk longer distances on a loose leash.
- If you need to walk your dog when you aren't prepared to work on polite leash manners, use different equipment (harness, collar, etc.) or attach the leash to his harness at a different point. This will teach your dog that the leash attached one place means pulling may work, but attached at another point, it won't.

### Teaching your dog to walk politely

1. Start by rewarding your dog several times for just standing next to you. Deliver the treat right next to your leg to teach your dog to stay close to you.
2. Hold a treat right in front of your dog's nose and lure him to follow along with you as you take two steps forward. Give your dog the treat and use a new treat to lure another two steps.
3. Gradually increase the number of steps you take until your dog will stay with you for 5-6 steps.

### Fading the lure

1. After luring your dog along for several steps, show your dog a treat and hold it near your waist. Encourage your dog to walk next to you for two steps and then give your dog the treat.
2. Gradually increase the number of steps between treats until your dog can walk 10-15 steps with you.

### Maintenance

- Be sure to praise and treat your dog any time he looks up at you when you are walking. If he is looking at you, he is probably in a good position.
- Practice changing directions by saying "this way" just before you turn. Reward your dog when he turns with you.
- Use "real life rewards" such as sniffing, getting into the car, or greeting a good friend to reward your dog for polite leash walking.
- If your dog pulls, stop moving and wait until your dog looks back at you. You can use his name or a treat to get his attention and lure him back into position next to you. You can also turn around and walk in the opposite direction for several feet.