

Leash Manners



Cue's we teach and use:

- Leave it** (let it go)
- Let's go** (to encourage dog to move)
- Look** (look at you)
- Touch** (touch your hand – moves dog without pulling on the leash)
- With me** (heel or cue to mean don't pull)
- Flowers** (cue to mean take a minute and smell (breathe/relax))

Warm up Exercises

30 to 60 second Leave it
30 second Look
5 Touches
Repeat
Hyper pup? Add 5 Push-up's

Practice

- when getting ready for a walk
- as the walk begins
- anytime dog loses focus

Warm up Exercises

↓
Begin Walk

↓
Is dog pulling?

Yes

Incorporate one of the following strategies:

Crazy Dog Walker

Penalty Yards

Stand like a pole

Attention Exercises

(see reverse)

No

Hooray!
Acknowledge them
"Yes, Good With Me"
Keep Walking

Give them a treat on occasion, when they're walking politely

Give them time to smell different things

Give 'em a Break!

When you start your walk, let them have a little time to 'get their dog out:' Let them smell, jump around, and overall be delighted to be going. Don't let them cause an issue, pull you down or be a knucklehead, but allow them a little latitude at least for the first few minutes.

Have they had a chance to run, think or otherwise let their energy out? They REALLY need this to be successful at learning and training.

On your way to the dog park or to meet up with a favorite friend? Set yourself up for success and wait to train until after their play time.

Give yourself a break...

Use Management Tools anytime you cannot train:

- Front clip harness
- Belly band
- Gentle leader (head harness) necessary if your dog goes to their teeth
- Muzzle if they're mouth cannot be controlled

Crazy Dog Walker

Have dog on a 6' or shorter leash. Begin walking, as soon as you feel tension on the leash, turn in the opposite direction of the dog. Don't warn the dog your goal is to be unpredictable and get your dog to look to you for cue's – rather than make the decisions themselves.

Every time the dog pulls in one direction, turn in the opposite one. Repeat, until your pup realizes they need to default to you for direction/speed. Often this looks like we're pacing back and forth a few times.

This powerful tool can often be implemented for just 30-60 seconds to remind a dog that you're on the other end of the leash. I'll often start off a new dog with this strategy and implement it again during the walk if they start pulling or loose focus.

Penalty Yards/Reset

Have dog on a 6' or shorter leash. Begin walking, as soon as the dog pulls take two steps back and say "Reset". Using a hand-target, encourage your dog to come back to your side and sit. As soon as they sit, say "Ok" and begin walking again. When they pull again, stop, take two steps back "reset," encourage dog to your side, and to sit, as soon as they do begin walking.

I find this strategy works best with those dogs who are pulling toward something specific (versus just a fast walking dog). For example, when pulling toward another dog, a smell or tree, anything. The key to success here is to just keep repeating the exercise without getting frustrated or losing your cool. I've found that 3-4 reminders toward something specific often is the point they get it.

Once they walk politely, give them time with the person, or the thing they wanted to get to. This is their reward! No need to give a treat here b/c the ability to smell or engage is the reward.

Stand like a pole

In a similar exercise, leash up your dog and stand still until there isn't tension on the leash. As soon as that happens, begin walking. As soon as you feel tension again, stop. Wait for him/her to release a bit of the tension and begin walking.

I think we end up performing this exercise mostly with shy and nervous dogs – because we have to and the tension is behind us. Waiting for highly-reactive dogs to release the tension in the leash can be frustrating as these dogs need to move to release their tension.

This exercise is also great for kids walking dogs or after surgery or when you're body isn't in the best shape to manage a dog.

Attention exercises

Here we ask dogs to look at us anytime a trigger is present. Anxious, shy and under-socialized dogs excel at this exercise. Looking at you gives them safety and lets them focus on their favorite thing (you!) It's important to protect them during this exercise so they don't need to 'watch their backs.'

If you have a busy or over-the-top dog, a long look is tough for them!

