

LOOSE LEASH WALKING



Why do we teach dogs to walk on a leash?

We have to teach dogs how to give a loose leash walk because leashes are required in most cities and **dogs don't naturally know how to walk on a leash**. It's important to teach this skill because pulling on leash is frustrating for us, and can result in injury to us and our dogs.

How we teach dogs to walk on a leash:

- 🐾 Teach your dog to follow you **off leash** throughout your house, then your yard:
 - Say a word like “follow”, walk in front of your dog, praise and reward as soon as he turns in your direction to begin following you.
 - Deliver the treat at or behind your leg while you keep walking.
 - Repeat this by changing directions often.
 - Put your dog's harness and leash on and keep practicing. Let the leash drag at first.
 - Use a front clip harness that doesn't twist when your dog pulls, like the [EasyWalk](#).
 - Use high value (meat or organ) treats.

- 🐾 Forget your definition of a walk:
 - Start slowly by hanging out on your porch and in the front yard for 10 minutes.
 - Forget about distance and focus on time.
 - Encourage your dog to sniff and explore by walking around in grass easements.
 - Do circles and figure 8s, praising and rewarding as you did inside.
 - Occasionally, walk a few feet down the sidewalk and then go back into the grass.

- 🐾 Important Tips:
 - Ensure the harness is snugly fit as described in the instructions.
 - Avoid the sidewalk early on. Your dog will always be faster than you, the sidewalk tells him where you're headed and he's excited.
 - Never Ever allow your dog to pull. Stop when he does. Use a recall to get him back to you or change directions and use the follow cue just before he passes you. If you allow pulling 1 out of 100 times, you've taught your dog persistence.
 - Intermittently stop, stand still, change directions, include u-turns, and cue for other skills your dog knows.