

Why your dog pulls on the lead

Look at things from a dog's point of view. He is in a rush to get to the park because he enjoys running around. You are still behind him because he can feel you pulling and hear you saying "heel, heel" at him. You pull harder sometimes and shout louder, but he still gets to the park where you let him run around.

Pulling has just been rewarded. He pulls because you let him. Change the way you think about things and he will change his behaviour. You need to be consistent. Start your walk with the thought that you will not accept any pulling. As soon as he starts to pull- STOP, stand still and stop talking to him. Wait until the lead goes slack and then start off again. When he starts to pull again, STOP and wait for the lead to go slack. Walk back wards if necessary or turn round and walk in the opposite direction- away from what he is pulling towards. Reward only the desired behaviour- a loose lead.

The key is consistency- remember a few walks of walking backwards and forwards and maybe not even getting to the park will pay off in the long run. The alternative is years of being pulled to and from the park.



Walking on a Loose Lead



Teaching your puppy to walk on a loose lead takes a little time, but is well worth it- when you consider the alternative is a life time of being dragged everywhere!

First, choose a well fitting collar suitable for your puppy.

Introduce it to him by putting it on for a few moments while you distract him with his dinner, a treat or a game.

Remove it only when he is NOT making a fuss. Gradually increase the amount of time he wears it, making sure each

time he wears it, it is a pleasant experience for him. He will soon be happy to wear it all the time. **BY LAW A DOG**

MUST ALWAYS BE WEARING IDENTIFICATION- SO WEARING A COLLAR WITH ATTACHED TAG IS

IMPORTANT

Next get him used to you holding the collar while he remains still. You need to be able to do this so that you can

attach the lead. Take hold of his collar, under his chin, with one hand, while giving him a treat with the other. Again increase the time you hold on to him until he is happy whenever you hold onto his collar.

Then, before you introduce him to the lead, get him used to walking by your side, round the house and garden. The easiest way to do this is by feeding him his dinner, piece by piece as he walks next to you. Once he is happy to do this (and it may take a couple of episodes), you can attach the lead to his collar. Continue to give him the pieces of his dinner as you walk around the house and garden with the lead attached. You can gradually reduce the amount of pieces you give him as he understands that walking next to you is a pleasant experience.

ALL OF THIS INTRODUCTION IS DONE WITHOUT LEAVING THE HOUSE OR GARDEN

When your puppy is fully vaccinated and is safe to go out, you can now leave the garden. Calmly, leave the house and continue to praise and reward the puppy for walking next to you. If he pulls ahead at ANY stage, stand still and stop the praise. Wait until his attention is back on you, then set off again, continuing with praise and reward as he walks by

your side. In this way your puppy will never learn to pull. He can still stop for a sniff, provided that the lead remains loose.

THIS METHOD WORKS WELL- EVEN WITH DOGS WHO HAVE ALREADY LEARNED TO PULL- IT JUST TAKES LONGER AND WILL REQUIRE MORE PATIENCE.

CALM BEHAVIOUR

If your dog becomes over excited when you get the lead out or try to clip it on his collar- insist that he sits quietly while you put it on. Ask him to sit and if he refuses just put the lead away and leave him for five minutes. After this time, get the lead out and try again- if he refuses to sit, put the lead away and wait for five minutes. Only put on the lead when he is sitting quietly and calmly. It may take you an hour to put the lead on, but your dog will have learned a valuable lesson- sitting quietly is rewarded with a walk.

