



# Walking

## 5 Tips for Loose Lead Walking

1. Teach the dog in the right environment – that is, without distractions. Start inside or in your backyard and only walk in a rectangle. Find a space about the size of your dining table or a large rug. If you have a narrow hallway or restricted space with a wall on one side use this to help keep the dog in place. Have the dog wearing their collar or harness – **DO NOT ATTACHED THE LEAD YET.**
2. Feedback and encouragement at the **right times** and in the **right location**. Payment like food, praise and patting should be delivered near your left knee. Let the dog know what you like and what they are doing right.
3. No – avoid saying no and ah ah – puppies notice what is getting your attention and will repeat it to get that attention (even negative attention).
4. Don't rush – go short distances so the dog feels like they are doing well and let them take the time to sniff and enjoy their walk.
5. Equipment - have comfortable easy to use equipment, avoid slip leads, choke chains as these place pressure on the neck and retractable leads, and bungy leads as they don't allow for the dog to learn that they are being reinforced for the feeling of no tension.



# Walking

## Loose Lead Walking

Set in your mind the criteria and what kind of walk you are going on before you leave the yard. Allow for a small amount of sniffing to reduce the arousal at the start of the walk.

Keep it simple and when training only go for short distances.

When the dog is on lead, practice not letting them pull you to a smell, person, dog etc. Practise this before and during a walk.

Remember to give the reinforcement (food) near your left knee to build association with this being where you want them to be.

Challenge a sit into a heel/side position – Lure the dog to your side (left or right) then ask for a sit (or leave the dog in a standing position) mark and reinforce. This is a neutral position to start walking

Start with the dog in a neutral position on your side, reinforce/pay the dog with the hand on the same side and the lead in the other hand. Use a high rate of reinforcement (1-2 steps) mark and reinforce for loose lead, gradually increase the number of steps you can take before you mark and reinforce.

Swap hands the dog learns to walk on both sides. Again, start with a high rate of reinforcement (1-2 steps) for a loose lead, helping the dog to generalise their position in relation to you – it's a good thing to have no tension on the lead.