

Dog Leash Training



- Quick Methods
That Work!



**Tug of War
No More!**

Disclaimer

The purpose of this report is to help educate about dogs and dog leash training methods.

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INTRODUCTION

A leash is going to be an integral part of almost every dog and dog owner's life. A dog will spend countless hours on the end of a leash and this time should be a happy, positive time for both the dog and the walker to be together. The goal of this article is to teach every dog owner how to make leash walking a pleasure.

The article will guide you through the steps of selecting and choosing the proper leash for your pet and then will show you great methods of introducing your animal to the leash. It will also teach how to train the animal to want to be beside you. Your pet will no longer be pulling and straining to get ahead of you and you will no longer be dragged down the road by your pet.

The document will also show you how to correct many the annoying and frustrating habits that a dog may exhibit. This includes things like biting and attacking the leash and refusing to walk. By the end of the report you will know how to get every member of the family involved in the leash training process and you will be able to show them how to control and handle the animal while they take the dog out for his daily exercise.

Leash walking should be a fun time for both the dog and the handler. This article will give you all the information needed so that you can ensure that you have an obedient, happy, leash walking dog.

LEASH TRAINING

A leash is now required in almost every urban area in the US and many other places around the globe. A dog must be kept on a leash at all times regardless of age, breed or size. Due to this ever growing trend it is becoming more and more important that you and your pet know how to walk using a leash properly.

The goal of this article is to provide you with everything you need to know about why you should use a leash and how to use one correctly, to ensure that both you and your dog will be able to truly enjoy going out for walks together.

This article will cover not only how to train your dog to walk correctly while he is on his leash, but will also go through the steps to train the more formal "heeling" method of leash walking. It will also go into detail about the things that every dog walker in the household should know before and during the outing. You will learn how to select the perfect leash for your pet and discover information about many of the more specialized leashes that are available. This article will also cover the many reasons why you should always have your pet on a leash.

- Selecting a Leash
- Specialty Leashes
- Getting Your Puppy Accustomed to Using a Leash
- Proper Leash Walking
- Training the Family
- Children and Dog Walking
- Heeling
- Leash Biting
- Why Use a Leash

SELECTING A LEASH

A leash is going to be a big part of your's dog life. It is not going to be merely a training tool, but will in most cases become one of the things that he is going to have to use every day of his life. Therefore, it is a good idea to choose the perfect leash for your pet.

When you walk into a store one of the things that you will notice is that the leashes usually indicate the weight of the dog, or the size of the dog that

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they are made for. Pay attention to this figure. You do not want to get a leash that will be too heavy for your pet, nor do you want to get one that is going to be too light. If you are buying for a puppy you might want to consider buying a less expensive leash because he will probably outgrow the leash fairly quickly.

Every leash is going to have to be attached to your pet's collar. When selecting a leash look at the attachment and see how it operates. Ideally, you want to select something that will attach and detach quickly and easily. You also have to be certain that the attaching mechanism is going to be strong enough to handle your dog. You do not want the mechanism to suddenly pull apart if your pet does make a sudden lunge. You also want to be sure that anything you select will be easy to use and will not be affected by weather conditions. Leashes that use a screw type carabineer should be avoided. These are not only hard to operate but can freeze or become extremely tricky if the weather is very cold.

When selecting a leash take a look at precisely how long the leash is. You really do not need anything that is longer than six feet. A longer leash will be harder to use during training sessions and is often more of a hindrance than a help, especially with a puppy. Many bylaws state that a dog must be on a certain length of leash, which in lots of places is six feet.

The material that the leash is made out of is also very important. Countless dog owners have suffered rope burns from poor quality leashes. Nylon and leather tend to be the best. If you do select a nylon style make sure that it is a flat style as opposed to a rope. Leather leashes are really great and in many cases will last the life of your pet.

Take a moment and carefully examine how the leash is constructed. Many of the really cheap leashes are glued rather than sewed. Glue is a bad choice because it will not only deteriorate over time but may give way at unexpected moments. A well sewn leash is a much better choice.

Many owners forget that they may have to wash or clean a leash. When you pick out a leash keep this in mind. Regardless of where you live you may at some point have to get the leash clean. It is a good idea to get one that can be easily thrown in the washing machine.

Fancy leashes are fine but beware of anything on the leash which is glued on or dangles. Any ornamentation on a leash may be a choking hazard if your dog starts to bite or chew the leash. These fancy decorations may also become a distraction for your pet during training. A plain leash is often the best for everyday use.

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Once you have found the perfect leash for your pet it is a good idea to get two. You never know when a second leash will come in handy.

Sadly, there have been a number of dog owners who have lost fingers or suffered very bad burns caused by leashes. There have even been a number of other injuries reported when a leash clasp broke and the clasp hit the handlers in the face. Most of these accidents happened when a dog pulled unexpectedly and their hand or fingers were entangled in the leash. The other very dangerous aspect of a faulty or poorly made leash is the number of injuries that have occurred to pets because they were able to break free.

To prevent any of these terrible things from occurring to you or any other member of the household including the dog, take the time to select a high quality, reliable leash. Be sure that you read and follow all the manufacturers information listed on the leash.

SPECIALTY LEASHES

More and more people are doing more and more things with their pet and leash manufacturers are going out of their way to adapt to this trend. Leashes are readily available to not only accommodate different sporting activities but for different daily walks as well.

WOOD HANDLE LEASH

A wood handle leash is ideal for many older people who may suffer from arthritis or other such conditions. They are also great when a smaller child is walking the dog. The reason for this is that the handle is easy to hold and most importantly can be quickly released should the need arise. With a regular handle the leash is usually wrapped around the hand or thumb. If the dog suddenly pulls the dog walker may be unable to let go of the leash fast enough to prevent injury.

SHORT/TRAFFIC LEASH

This kind of leash is ideal for the person who will be doing a lot of walking on busy sidewalks. They are usually not more than two feet in length. This short leash will keep the dog right at your side at all times without you having to say anything. They make it very easy for a dog and owner to navigate around signs, poles and people.

BIKING LEASH

These leashes are made specifically to attach to your bike. They have a short pole feature that extends out from the bike which keeps the dog away

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from the wheels and the pedals. This is ideal for anyone who wants to safely ride their bike with a dog. This type of leash allows you to have your hands free to ride while still having your pet under control.

HIKING LEASH

These leashes are great for any person who intends to do a lot of terrain walking. The leash actually attaches to a belt or comes with a special belt. This enables the hiker's hands to be free at all times.

SWIVEL LEASH

These leashes are made for anyone who has to walk more than one dog at a time. The swivel device allows two or more dogs to move back and forth without the leash becoming entangled. It also means that as a walker you only have one handle to hold.

RETRACTABLE LEASH

Many dog owners love this type of leash. This leash enables the handler to vary the length of leash at any time. You can buy these leashes in different sizes according to both the length of the leash and the weight of the dog.

REFLECTOR LEASHES

If you are going to be doing a lot of your dog walking in the evening or late night, this leash may be ideal. They are made of a special material that will reflect headlights and let traffic know exactly where your dog is.

FLASHLIGHT

There are a number of leashes on the market that come with a light. These lights are near the handle which allows you as the walker, to see more clearly as you and your pet stroll along. They can be a really great help if you are going to be doing your dog walking in areas that are not well lit or have an uneven surface. They are also great to have if you are out late and need to see what your dog is trying to sniff or pick up. A flashlight is always useful for late night walks.

LED LIGHTS

These leashes have a LED built right in. Depending on the kind that you buy the lights may be just at the top or extend the entire length of the leash.

RINGS

There are a number of leashes that come with rings built right into their design. These rings may be stationary, floating or both. The purpose of these rings is to allow you to tether the dog should the need arise. Many owners like to use this type of tether leash when they are doing outdoor training. The leash can also adapt to go around your waist quickly if you

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need to have your hands free while walking.

GETTING YOUR PUPPY USED TO A LEASH

The sooner you introduce a leash to your puppy the better. This does not mean that you are going to start walking with the dog or asking him to heel. You merely want the puppy to accept and know the weight and feel of the leash.

A good time to start is when you and the puppy are going to have some playtime. Simply attach the leash to his collar and continue with your play session. Your puppy, may at first be distracted by the leash but if you engage his thoughts elsewhere he will quickly lose interest in the leash. Give the puppy a chance to smell and drag the leash around, do not pick up the leash or try to control him, just allow him to do his own thing.

Once the puppy is used to having the leash on his collar you can move on to the next step, which is to hold the end of the leash. While you are playing with the animal, sit down on the floor and play but keep the leash in your hand. You do not want to pull on the leash at any time. If the puppy moves away from you allow the leash to tighten but not to pull. When the leash is tight, call the puppy back to you and reward him. Do this during a couple of different play sessions. The lessons that you want the puppy to learn are: that by staying with you he gets rewarded and once the leash is tight nobody moves.

You can also begin tying the leash to your waist while you are doing things around the house. Every time you have to move to a different area call the puppy to follow you. The puppy will soon learn that being with you is fun and rewarding. If he tries to go in another direction, freeze. Do not move at all and call the dog back. If you have to, get down to his level and call him by name and be sure to offer a reward. Do not give it to him until he comes right to you. You should keep doing this until your puppy learns to happily follow you all over the house.

The more often you can practice this technique, the better. You do not want the session to be long, fifteen minutes is plenty because puppies have short attention spans. You can also get other members of the family to help with this learning step. You want the puppy to learn that he is supposed to follow the person who is holding the leash. Always remember that at no point is anybody supposed to pull on the leash. This rule applies to both you and the puppy. If the puppy is not following you, do not pull and tug him. Get down and call him back. If the puppy is trying to go the wrong way, you must

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freeze. You want this experience to be happy and fun. The objective is to teach the puppy to want to be with you. After you and the puppy have practiced this to the point where he is very good at listening and following, make the situation more challenging.

Note: Never at any time should you leave the puppy unattended with the leash on! If you have to go, even for a minute, take the leash off.

PROPER LEASH WALKING

Walking with your dog should be fun and you have to be the one in control at all times. It should not be a battle, you are the pack leader you need to lead. Your dog should always be either beside you or behind you but never in front and never pulling. A walk with your pet should be a no pull situation! This applies to both you and the dog.

Any dog can learn to walk correctly while on a leash, it just takes time and consistency. If you have an older dog who up until now has been allowed to lead and to pull, the time to correct the situation is now. You may need to go right back to basics. That means you may want to start practicing in the house. Attach the leash to your waist and train the dog to follow you around the house.

Once you and the dog are ready to go outside be prepared to go slowly. Your dog has already learned to pull and it is going to take time to teach him that this kind of behavior is not acceptable. You are going to use the stop and freeze method every time the dog starts to pull. Permit the dog to walk as far as the leash allows but once the leash is tight, freeze. Turn and face another direction and call the dog. If he comes to your side praise and reward him and move on.

If he remains facing the other way take a very small, slow step in the opposite direction while calling his name and if need be offer a treat. Once he has returned to you praise and give him the reward. Continue walking away from whatever was interesting the dog. After a couple of feet you can turn back and go the other way. If the dog fails to respond to your call or the treat and is still pulling away, give the leash a flick. Do not pull, just flick. The point of this exercise is to get the dog to focus on you. If he still is not responding, keep the leash tight and walk up to the dog. Touch the dog on the side of his neck while speaking his name. You want to get the dog's attention. Once he turns and looks at you move in the direction that you want to go.

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As the dog learns to walk beside you, work on changing direction frequently. Take a few steps in one direction then quickly turn and walk in another direction. Vary your turns, and vary the number of steps that you take, keep the dog guessing. His attention should be focused on you at all times. Praise the dog and offers rewards as he stays in the correct position. You want the dog to know when he is doing a good thing. Many owners are quick to correct but fail to encourage and praise good behavior.

Proper leash walking is going to take time for your pet to learn. Have patience and be consistent. This means that you have to use this technique every time the dog is on the leash, even if you are just running out to the car or doing a quick late night walk. You have to do it every time. The other important thing is to make sure that all members of the family or anyone else who is going to be walking the dog use the same method.

Remember that a walk is supposed to be a fun time for your pet. You should allow your dog the chance to smell and explore. You want the dog to stay close to you but he should not be expected to remain in the perfect heel position during the entire outing. A walk should not be confused with asking the dog to heel. Heeling requires much more focus and work on the part of the dog. You can certainly spend time during the walk training the dog to heel but you should also allow time for the dog to just have fun.

TRAINING THE FAMILY

One of the biggest problems when trying to train a dog to walk on a leash properly, is consistency. This really becomes a problem when there is more than one person who takes the dog out. If you want the dog to learn how to behave when he is walking, you have to first ensure that all dog walkers use not only the same command but use the same method also.

It is very important that all members of the family talk and decide upon which command words to use when walking the dog. It is also very important that all dog walkers know exactly how to walk the dog. Children who will be exercising the dog need to understand exactly what is expected of them if they are going to walk the dog unsupervised.

It is a very good idea that all members of the family work with the dog in the house before moving outside. This will give both the dog and the trainers time to adjust to each other without all the additional outside distractions. Although every member of the family will use the same commands, every individual has their own mannerisms and way of relating to a dog. To avoid confusing the animal you want everyone who trains the dog to do things as

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similarly as possible. Therefore, it is necessary that everyone spend time doing indoor training as well as outside.

CHILDREN AND DOG WALKING

Dogs often view children very differently than adults. A dog who behaves very well on a leash with an adult may be a nightmare for a child to walk. Dogs need to understand that they have to listen and obey a child in the same way that they do an adult.

Once you have established that the child understands good walking techniques and knows how to properly stop and freeze, the dog and child will need to practice. It is a really good idea to have them practice in the house together until both of them are familiar with good walking techniques. This will give you a chance to watch how the dog and child interact. You can then make corrections and offer suggestions, not only to the dog but to the child.

When the child and dog are working as a team in the house you can move outside. You should go with them the first few times to make sure that the child is able to keep the dog under control when there are more distractions.

Young children should never be allowed to walk a dog unsupervised. As a responsible dog owner you want to make sure that both the child and the dog will be able to walk safely. Part of this responsibility means making certain that the dog will listen and respect the child at all times. The other part of the equation is ensuring that the child will be able to control the dog under all circumstances. You also have to instruct the child what to do in the worst possible circumstances i.e. your pet is attacked by another dog or the dog gets loose and decides to run.

Another concern about having a child walk the dog is clean-up. In many places it is required by law that the dog handler remove all waste. If you are going to allow a child to walk the dog unsupervised, you have to ensure that the youngster will obey and respect these rules. Children and dogs can learn to happily walk together if both of them clearly understand what is expected of them.

HEELING

To train this command you are going to need your leash and some treats or some other kind of reward. Your dog should know how to "sit", "stay", "look" and the "come in" command before you begin training "heel".

Heeling is a more formal technique of walking a dog on a leash. The dog is expected to sit quietly on the left side of the handler. The moment that the walker moves the dog should respond. The dog should be right at the owner's side at all times. If the dog is large enough the owner should be able to touch the dog's head at any moment. The owner should be able to change direction or speed and the dog is expected to keep pace and remain right with the handler. The moment the handler stops moving the dog is expected to sit. The command is not complete until the dog has done the "sit" and the walker gives a release command.

To teach a dog to heel you are going to have to do it in stages. The first stage is to have the dog learn to do a "come in" command. This indicates to the dog that you want him to be seated on your left side. Once the dog has learned this command you can begin to train heel.

Get the dog to focus on you. You may use the "look" command or a simple touch, whichever your dog is more comfortable with. Many owners like to have their pet know the "look" command. This command lets the dog know that he is to listen and pay attention. He is to look right at you and focus. Put a treat in your left hand but keep it closed. Allow your dog to see the treat and smell it because you want him to know that it is there.

For the first few times that you try to teach the dog to heel, put the leash handle in your back pocket or in the waist band of your pants. The object here is to not use the leash to keep the dog moving. You want to lure him using the treat. You want to keep the treat right at your side, ideally with the dog's nose right there. Give the command heel and take a few steps. If the dog stays with you, stop and reward. Do not worry about the "sit" just yet.

Once you and the dog can take at least five or six steps you can move on to the next stage. Ask the dog to "sit" when you stop moving, and then reward. Do not give the animal his treat until he is sitting at your side. At the same time that you are working on the "sit" at the end of the walk, you can begin to add turns to your walk. Large, sweeping turns are best to start. It is easier to begin turns to the left because as you walk you are actually going

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to be pushing the dog out of your way. When you make a right turn you may need to repeat the "come in" command to get the dog to move up and back into place.

Each time you have a success, attempt a little more the next time. Eventually you will want to be able to perform a 180 degree turn with the dog staying right at your side. When you do go to turn 180 degrees to the left the dog should quickly move out of your way and race around to stay in position. You want to be able to turn in a circle and have the dog always right in place. As you practice change the speed at which you are walking. You may want to start fast and then go slow, or do the reverse. Each time you stop, make sure the dog is sitting in the correct spot. When he is sitting well, give him his release command and then his reward.

When you feel that the dog has a good understanding of what he is supposed to be doing, stop holding the treat in your hand. Keep it in your pocket or out of sight until the command is complete. If at all possible, you never want to have to use the leash for anything. It is only there as a safety precaution. You want the dog to be in place because he wants to be. If at any time you feel your dog is not understanding or is having trouble, back the lessons up a bit and go more slowly with the training.

A slight variation of this technique involves using the leash for corrections. When you first begin to train the command, keep the leash very short and use it to keep the dog tight to your side. If he starts to lag, gently pull him into place and verbally praise him for getting back into the proper position. You can also use the leash and gently pull up when you stop and simultaneously give the "sit" command. Give the release command and then reward the dog. As the dog gains confidence, use the leash as little as possible until it is no longer necessary to even touch it. Slacken the leash as the dog performs correctly.

As with any new skill this is going to take practice. Eventually you want the dog to be able to heel off the leash.

QUICK LEASH TRAINING TIPS

- Keep sessions short.
- Train at time when your dog is hungry, or motivated.
- Rewards do not have to be food, a toy or a pat and lots of praise can be just as good.
- Introduce the leash in stages.
- When training eliminate as many distractions as possible.
- Always use the same commands.
- Never train when you are tired or frustrated.
- Always end a training session on a positive note.
- Never hit your dog.
- Do not yank on the leash, EVER.
- Never leave your dog alone with a leash or similar device attached to his collar.
- Always supervise children and dogs.
- Be patient, training takes time.
- Learn the dog laws in your area regarding leashes, ignorance is never an excuse.
- Investigate the cause of your leash problem, as well as its solution.
- Safety must always be a number one priority.

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LEASH BITING

One of the most common complaints owners have about leash training is the dog likes to bite and attack his lead. This is especially common in young puppies. If your dog is a leash biter, there are a number of different techniques that you can try that will eliminate this annoying behavior.

DESENSITIZING

When you have the time to watch your dog, put the leash on. You can do this while you and the puppy are watching the TV. Play with the dog or just quietly pet him. The idea is to teach him that the leash is not interesting. If he starts to nibble on his leash, you can distract him by giving him a different toy to chew on.

SPRAYS

There are a number of products on the market that are made to keep puppies from chewing on forbidden items. Bitter apple is one of the best known products. Try spraying this all over the leash right before you take the dog for a walk. If you do have a pet that likes this taste you can try using a hot sauce. Be careful doing this as some sauces will discolor the leash and will smell really awful, both to you and the dog.

SHORTEN THE LEASH

The moment that the dog starts to try to bite or attack the leash reel it in. Keep the leash taut and keep walking. If there is very little slack in the lead there will be very little for the dog to grab. Ignore any attempts he makes to bite, just keep moving.

STOP AND FREEZE

This is the same technique that you use to train the dog not to pull. The moment he attacks the leash stop and turn your back on the animal. Do not pay any attention to the dog, fold your arms and wait. Folding your arms is a good way to show the dog that you have no intention of touching him or responding. Most dogs will quickly settle down when they realize that they are not getting any reaction. This method is effective but it will take time and you may not get very far on your walk.

TRAIN

As you walk the dog use the time to train the dog. Keep the dog distracted. Get him to focus on heeling or other more basic tricks.

CARRYING

Many dogs like to carry things on their walk. Some dogs will happily trot

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along with you while they carry a toy, a stick or a ball.

LEAVE IT

If you have been working on the "leave it" or "drop it" commands, now is a great time to practice. Tell the dog to leave the item. If he does drop the requested object, offer a treat and continue on. If he fails to drop the item, you have a variety of correction methods that you can try. Say "no" and give a quick jerk on the leash to get it out of his mouth or use the freeze method and ignore him until he obeys. Offer him a more valuable item in exchange for the leash. You can offer a treat or a toy. You are not rewarding the chewing, you are to reward the fact that he gave up the item.

CHANGE YOUR PACE/DIRECTION

If the dog tries to grab the leash immediately turn and walk in a different direction or quicken the pace. Keep the leash short but keep going quickly. Turn sharply in different directions to take the dog's attention away from the lead.

No

If the dog does get a hold of the leash issue a strong "NO". Use a very sharp no nonsense tone. If he still continues to shake and pull snap the leash upwards with a quick jerk. You do not have to do this hard, you merely want to startle the dog and get his attention. Once he has let go of the leash focus his mind on something else.

STEP ON THE LEASH

This trick is very handy. Step on the leash and if you have to stand on the handle portion of the leash. Do not reach for the dog, instead slowly pull the leash under your foot. As you do this the dog will be gradually pulled closer to your foot and you will be able to stand back up. Pull the leash until there is nothing left for the dog to grab. If the dog has not settled, give the "down" command and use the leash to make him go down by continuing to slowly pull up until he has no choice but to go down.

As with any training there is no one solution. In fact, you may find yourself having to use a variety of methods before your furry friend gets the idea that chewing the leash is not a good idea. You may find that using the stop and freeze and the carry method work best or you may have to snap the leash out his mouth and then use basic commands to keep his attention.

One thing that you do not want to do is to get a metal chain leash. Many dog owners are tempted to buy a metal leash because dog's rarely will bite or chew a chain, however if your dog does decide to chew on the chain, he may easily break or chip a tooth. This is especially true if you are training a

younger animal.

Note: Do not forget to reward good behavior. When your dog is walking nicely beside you let him know that he is doing a good job. Talk to him and offer the occasional treat. Many owners fail to let their dog know when they are doing something right.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR DOG REFUSES TO WALK

Many owners are faced with the problem of putting a leash on their pet and having the dog react by sitting down. The dog won't or doesn't want to move. Remember, leash walking is a no pull situation by both the dog and owner. Do not try to force your dog along behind you, instead you need to go back to the basics and work on convincing your pet to follow you. This applies to all dogs regardless of their age or breed.

Going back to basics is only part of the problem. You also want to investigate why your dog does not want to stroll along. There are three main causes of this type of behavior: the first is inexperience, the second is insecurity and the third is dominance. You have to spend time watching your pet and attempt to determine which of these problems might be the cause of his refusal to walk when the leash is on. You should also factor the age of the dog into the equation and how much time he has spent on a leash.

INEXPERIENCE

Many puppies are uncomfortable with the weight and feel of the leash. This is why it is so important to get a puppy used to the feel of the leash as soon as possible. You want to desensitize the puppy to the presence of the leash altogether. Practicing in the house is the best solution to this problem. This method will also work with older dogs who may be unaccustomed to leash walking.

Remember, you are also teaching the dog that wearing a leash is not only normal but can be fun. A great time to introduce the leash is before the animal is fed. Put the leash on his collar and fill his bowl with food. Most dogs are excited at meals times. Call the dog to follow you for a few seconds to the feed area while he is dragging the leash. The idea here is to build up the association between the leash and positive reinforcement.

Work on getting the dog to follow you around the house while he is dragging the leash, being sure to keep plenty of treats on hand. If your dog is not motivated by the food reward, it could be because the reward is not great enough or he is not hungry enough. Stop and try later. You may also want to work using other things to motivate the puppy. You may find that a ball, a special toy, or even praise/affection will work just as well as a food reward.

Another good idea is to first work with a line or tether that is lighter than the

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leash. You might consider tying a shoelace, a ribbon or a piece of string to his collar. As he grows accustomed to the weight and feel, add on a bit of weight.

Note: Never leave anything attached to his collar when you are not around.

INSECURITY

If you take a dog into a new area, many dogs will become nervous and stressed. The stress could be caused by anything including: that he simply does not like the feel of the surface you are walking on. If your pet has never experienced grass, or cement he may be upset by the strange sensation under his paws. It could be that the smell and sights are overwhelming. He may be upset by all the strangers, other dogs or the cars.

The best course of action here is to treat the situation as being totally normal. Work on trying to get the dog to follow you. Try your motivation techniques, either food or a toy. You need to do more socializing with the dog but you are going to have to take it slowly. If you pull the dog along you are going to increase his level of anxiety and stress and this is not the reaction that you want. You have to get the dog back to a relaxed and calm state of mind. Offer treats and call the dog, however it is important that you do not coddle the animal. Coddling tells the dog that there is something to fear, you have to act normally and convey this feeling to the dog.

DOMINANCE

If this is the reason that your dog is not moving you are going to have to do a serious evaluation of the dog's behavior at other times. Dominance tendencies will show up in various other behaviors throughout the day. If your dog is becoming territorial about his food or toys you will need to reassert your position as pack leader. You are going to have to teach the dog that you are the leader of the pack and that he is to obey you at all times, including leash time.

If the dog is really showing signs of aggression such as growling and snarling, you should contact a specialist to help you get control over your pet. A dog that truly aggressive is going to need professional help. Do not confuse dominant traits with aggression and if you ever feel frightened or intimidated by your pet it is important to seek outside assistance.

WHY USE A LEASH?

Many dog owners believe that a leash is not necessary. They take their pets for walks in urban areas and allow their pet to roam freely. Some claim that their pet is so well trained that it never leaves their side and there is no need to put the animal on a leash.

No owner can predict everything that can happen and no dog owner can guarantee that their dog will behave 100% of the time. It is an animal and animals do have their own minds. Why should every dog be kept on a leash at all times?

LIABILITY

As a dog owner you are legally responsible for your dog's behavior. If your dog does hurt or injure another person you may find yourself facing a large lawsuit. Your dog may never bite or attack and he might be very small but there are other ways that he could get into serious trouble. What if he startles an elderly person? Or causes a young child to fall off their bike? If your dog is not under control you could very easily be sued for damages.

OTHER DOGS

Your dog may be a very friendly well socialized animal, but not everybody has a well balanced dog. If your dog does get into an altercation with another animal and he was loose at the time, chances are that you will be held responsible. You may not have your own dog's vet bill to pay but that of the other dog.

CLEAN-UP

In many urban areas it is the law that you have to clean-up after your dog. This is far harder to do if your pet is not on a leash as you may not notice where or when your pet does his business. If you fail to clean-up after your dog you could be facing a large fine or have very upset neighbors.

OTHER ANIMALS

If your pet is allowed to roam free, he may be scaring other small animals that live nearby. He might be chasing the neighbor's cat or terrorizing squirrels and chipmunks. He might be inadvertently running through the nests of birds that make their nests on the ground. Depending on where you live your dog might be attacked or injured by a larger predator.

RESPECT

A dog that is not leashed may be using the neighbor's lawn as his own personal bathroom. You will certainly not be a popular person if your

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neighbor's lawn starts to die because of your dog's actions. Your dog may even be doing other damage to their property, like digging holes or running through gardens.

Some people do not care for dogs and are afraid of them. They do not want to be bothered or approached by a strange dog. It is far easier to show respect and keep your dog away from strangers if he is on a leash.

MATING

If you have not had your dog spayed or neutered he or she may wind up becoming a parent. There are thousands of animals in shelters due to unwanted litters being born every year and as a responsible pet owner you should ensure that your pet is not adding to the problem.

SAFETY

Your dog may be extremely obedient, however what should happen if he did decide to dash out on the street because something scared him or he saw a cat and decided to chase after it? Your pet could be very easily hurt if not killed by running out into traffic. If your pet does dart out into traffic and he causes a car accident because drivers swerve to avoid him, you may find yourself having to pay for some very expensive car repairs.

GARBAGE

You may be fast but your dog is faster. If he does start chewing or trying to eat something dangerous, will you be able to stop him from eating it? There is a far greater chance that your pet may eat or drink something that could be very harmful before you are able to stop him. You may not even notice when he manages to gobble it down.

DISEASE

Many dogs become ill because they have come into contact with something dangerous. They drink from a contaminated pond or stream and get parasites. They nibble on a bone and get worms or they get too close to another animal and get ticks and fleas. The list goes on and on. If your dog was on a leash you would greatly reduce his chances of ever being able to contact these hazards things.

THE LAW

In more and more places it is the law. Any dog that is not leashed may be picked up and taken to an animal facility. If this happens to your friend you will have to pay a number of different fines to get him back. Even if you are out with the dog you could be fined for failure to comply with this law.

Be responsible and use a leash. Respect your neighbors and the others

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around you by keeping your dog under control at all times.

The days of just heading out with your pet by your side are gone. Even though you can no longer just let your pet run free this does not mean that your walks with the dog have to be a battle of wills. With all the information you have read you should be able to go out and have your dog happily walking beside you and not just because he is leashed but because being with you is the best place to be.

CONCLUSION

Proper leash training is something that every dog and owner has to learn. As you have read leash training is not just for the safety of the dog but also for the safety of those around your pet. Another very good reason to learn proper leash training and proper walking is because in many places it is now the law to have your animal leashed at all times. If you are planning to be a courteous dog owner, you will take the time and make the effort to train your furry friend to enjoy being leashed.

If you take the time to practice the methods and procedures that you read about in this report, you and your dog will be prepared to go out and face the challenge of leash walking. Most dogs will not require a lot of time to learn the techniques that you have been shown, so long as you remain diligent and consistent with your training. Remember to be patient and that every dog is different and soon both you and the dog will be happily strolling anywhere together.