



FRIENDLY CREATURES

Your solution to animal behavioural problems



Loose lead walking

Practice in the house and garden at random times for short periods. Have a short lead on your dog. Allow him to have the full length of the short lead but keep the length fixed by keeping your lead-holding hand pressed to your hip. Walk and praise whilst the lead is loose, stop if he starts pulling ahead. If he pulls hard or tries to creep forward, or lunge forward, bend your knees and brace yourself so that he doesn't achieve any forward movement. Remain quiet and calm. Wait for any movement back towards you with a resulting slacking of the lead and at that moment praise the dog and walk on again.

Regularly say "Good" and treat when the lead is loose. Encourage him to look up and give you eye contact after you have stopped. If he stops and plants his feet, or sniffs the ground, ask him to "Come!" to you. Use a happy voice and pat your legs to encourage him, and praise and treat when he comes to you and set off again.

Don't pull the dog to you as this will only cause opposition reflex (the dog pulling back against you).

Some dogs start jumping up to get the treat in your hand. If this happens, keep the treats out of sight. However, the treats do need to be accessible to you so that you can follow up your "Good!" with a food reward. Give the food reward on the ground next to your foot, so the dog has to stay low to get his treat.

If the dog walks across you in front of you from left to right, or goes ahead and turns to face you, this is most likely because your treats are in your right hand. Again put the treats out of sight. When you get a chance to praise him and treat, make sure the treat goes in his mouth whilst he is on your left hand side in line with your leg. In other words being in the required position – at your left side on a loose lead – is the place where all the rewards happen.

When you are actually going out for a walk, remember to leave more time so that you can consistently and calmly teach your dog to walk on a loose lead. It is useful to think of the on-lead part of the walk as a necessary and positive part of his

exercise and mental stimulation, even if time restraints mean that the off lead walk is shorter.

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