

Leash Training

When you start leash training your puppy, it is best to use a lightweight collar or harness. You should have lots of treats and toys to help keep the puppies attention. Start by clipping the leash onto the collar or leash and let them get used to the weight of the leash. Occasionally pick up the leash and just hold it. The goal is for the puppy to discover that pulling does not release the pressure, but giving into the leash does. You should be doing this for no longer than 5 minutes. Be sure to give your puppy treats when doing this. When it is time to start walking with them, you want to encourage them to walk. They may resist and try to back up at first. You should bend down and offer treats to encourage them to walk. If they start out pulling you, just stop. When they release pressure on the leash, praise them and continue walking.

Gentle Leader Training:

If walks with your dog entail lots of pulling and/or lunging, then the Gentle Leader may just be your saving grace. The Gentle Leader, a head collar that fits securely over your dog's nose, works against your dog's urge to pull ahead by gently moving their head and body back to you whenever they start to pull. The Gentle Leader works differently than a flat collar in that it places pressure on the back of the neck instead of the front of the throat. Your dog should instinctively lean back into the pressure when the leash is tight from pulling. You can also use the Gentle Leader to redirect your dog away from situations and distractions when needed because where the nose goes the body follows.

The fit and feel of a Gentle Leader is a new experience for any dog so conditioning your dog to it is key in its success. Taking small steps and getting your dog used to the Gentle Leader is important in maximizing the effectiveness as well as success of the halter. Start by putting the gentle leader on, rewarding by giving treats and immediately taking it off. Then next day put it on and leave the gentle leader on for longer. You can begin walking the dog, remembering not to yank on the leash. Always use a positive reward based training.

