



Learning to walk before you can run

Transform your lead walk from painful to peaceful



Pulling your chain?



Your dog's lead-walking etiquette is becoming, in no uncertain terms, a joke. Pulling on the lead is **very common**, so don't worry if you find yourself up against a furry steam train on your daily walk. Though obvious to us, your dog hasn't figured out that a loose lead makes their walk more fun. How can we teach them?



The right tools

You would be forgiven for thinking the humble lead and collar to be the best equipment for walking your dog. In reality, collars can damage your dog's neck, and a poor harness, or one used the wrong way can increase lead pulling. It's complicated. So then, what should & shouldn't you use?

Extendible or flexi-leads



Prong, shock, or e-collars



Double-ended training leads



Adjustable harness (2 points of contact)



Prevention or cure?

Well, why not try both at once? Let's talk prevention. To make your dog less likely to pull, ensure he's had an exhausting play session before he heads out. If this isn't possible, brainwork can do the same job. A 10 minute training session, a session with a food toy, or a game of 'find it' may have the same effect. Allow him to calm once again before preparing to leave the house.





Build a dialogue

You want your dog to walk nicely, stay beside you, and keep up with you, right? For this, your dog needs to constantly be aware of where you are and which way you're moving. By focusing on your dog, you can allow him to relax, slowing down when he's sniffing. **Use your voice** instead of pressure on the lead to move him if he's heading the wrong way. This teaches him to look and listen to you for direction on walks, rather than going full steam ahead.





Enjoyment is key

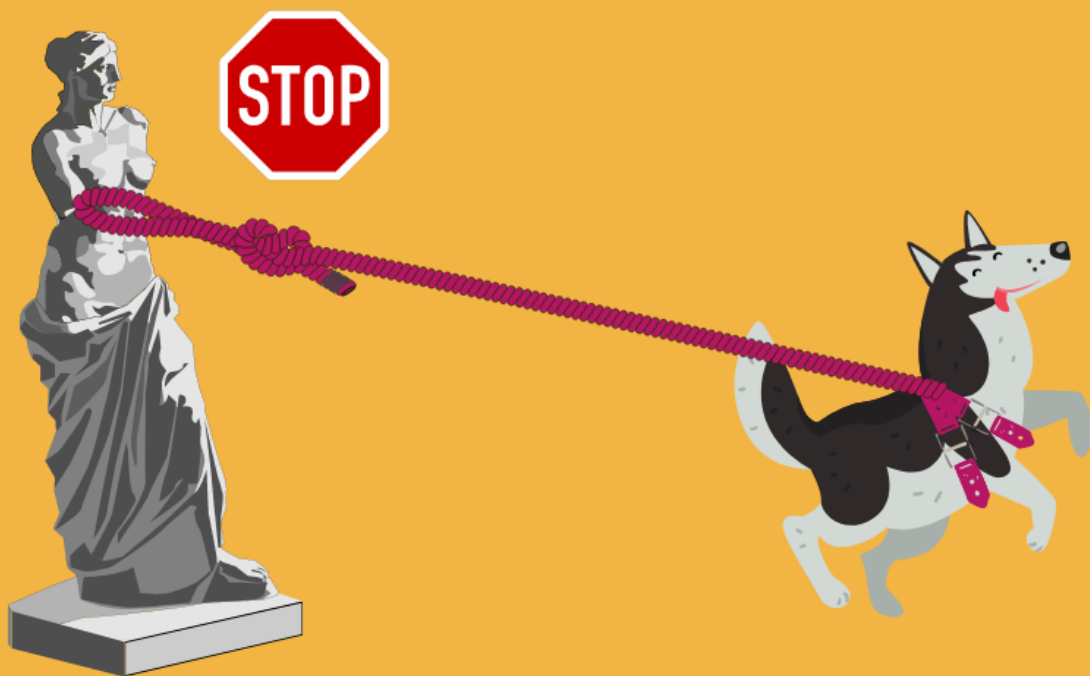


Walks are one of the most exciting parts of your dog's day. By restricting the amount he can enjoy them, say by yanking the lead or keeping a very short lead, he will be even more desperate to try to get to the park, and will pull with renewed fervour. Instead, where possible give him a long line, and stop frequently, allowing him to stop, sniff, and feel as if he's off the lead.



Pulling = we stop

If your dog is in the habit of pulling, he's learned that it's functional to get him to his destination. To change this, we need to teach him that pulling no longer serves his purposes. When the lead becomes taught, stand still immediately. Don't yank, just stop. He will feel the resistance, eventually coming back to see what's up. Stop every single time he gets to the end of the lead.





Loose lead = we walk

Stopping when he pulls teaches him that pulling only ends in halting. Now we must teach him what we want him to do instead. When you're standing still, the second the lead becomes untaught and loose, start to walk. If he rushes and pulls again, simply stop once again and wait for it to loosen. This, consistently, makes it crystal clear to your dog what behaviour is successful, and what behaviour isn't, in moving forward.

GO





Now, You can strut it

& show off your lead-walking skills when out and about. If you're finding other walking issues that might be less, well, socially acceptable, or your dog is too reactive to achieve loose-lead walking with ease, get in touch for advice today at **Pets Explained**.

www.Pets-Explained.co.uk