

Training Plan: Walking On Leash

Time: 5-10 minutes

Supplies: Bait bag, Bite-sized treats, leash with clip

Goal: To help dogs become comfortable with wearing and walking on a leash.

Instructions:

Do not start teaching a dog to walk on leash before you have completed all levels of the Leashing Training Plan and the dog appears comfortable being leashed.

Level 1:

Enter the dog's kennel and clip the leash to their collar, stand up and then quickly follow this action with scattering a small handful of treats on the floor near your feet. Remain in place as the dog consumes the treats, then as the dog looks back at you, drop the leash and step away, idling (for roughly 10-30s) or doing something else so that there is an obvious stop or delay in offering of treats.

Encourage the dog to approach you, then pick up the leash and repeat the above actions, scattering treats on the ground and waiting before dropping the leash and moving away.

1. Attach a leash to the dog's collar
2. Immediately scatter a small handful of treats near your feet
3. Remain in place as the dog consumes the treats
4. When the dog finishes the treats, drop the leash and step away
5. Idle so that there is an obvious stop or delay in treats
6. Do this until the dog appears comfortable

Level 2:

Encourage the dog to approach you, then pick up the leash and take a small step away from them before scattering a small handful of treats near to your feet again.

Continue to hold the leash and repeat the above actions, scattering treats on the ground and waiting for the dog to look at you before praising them and stepping away from them before scattering treats again.

1. Pick up the leash and take a small step away from the dog while holding the leash
2. Immediately scatter a small handful of treats near your feet, again
3. Continue to hold the leash and repeat the above, stepping around
4. Slowly increase the length of your step
5. Do this until the dog appears comfortable

Level 3:

Take two steps while holding the leash and praise the dog as soon as they step toward you, immediately scattering a small handful of treats on the floor near to your feet while praising the dog.

Continue to hold the leash and repeat the above actions, waiting for the dog to look at you before praising them and stepping away from them before scattering treats again.

1. Hold the leash in your hand and take a couple of steps away from the dog
2. Immediately scatter a small handful of treats near your feet, again
 - a. At this level, you may include hand-feeding the dog treats instead of scattering treats
3. Repeat the above, stepping around while holding the leash
4. Slowly add multiple steps
5. Do this until the dog appears comfortable

At this stage, the dog should be enthusiastically following you on leash around their kennel.

Level 4:

Begin to introduce small amounts of leash pressure. Gently pull the leash away from the dog's neck, and as soon as the leash is taut mark and scatter a handful of treats on the ground. After this, do a repetition or two of level 3, stepping around the kennel and scattering or hand-feeding treats before repeating the actions above.

1. Gently pull the leash, away from the dogs neck so that it is taut and applying a small amount of pressure
2. Immediately scatter a handful of treats on the ground ahead the dog, in the direction you applied pressure
3. After a repetition of this, do some repetitions at level 3 before repeating the above
4. Do this until the dog appears comfortable

Level 5:

At this level, begin teaching the dog to move with you in the direction leash pressure is applied. Gently pull the leash away from the dog's neck as you step away from the dog then scatter a handful of treats on the ground near to your feet. After this, do a repetition or two of level 3, stepping around the kennel and scattering or hand-feeding treats before repeating the actions above.

1. Gently pull the leash, away from the dogs neck so that it is taut and applying a small amount of pressure
2. Step away from the dog and immediately scatter a handful of treats near to your feet
3. After a repetition of this, do a repetition or two at level 3 before repeating the above
4. Slowly add multiple steps
5. Do this until the dog appears comfortable

Level 6:

Generalize it! Play this game in new locations, including the inside of buildings or just outside the dog's kennel for just a couple minutes, slowly adding time and distance to this exercise.

It is crucial that you do not work on this training plan in an environment where your dog is or may become fearful. Choose an environment they are familiar with and comfortable in.

Reminders:

- Be prepared with ample amounts of tossable treats
- Closely monitor your dog's body language for signs of discomfort or fear, dropping to an easier level when this is apparent