



Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes

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Upcoming Classes

Puppy Class:

May 14 – June 18

May 15 – June 19

Doggy Manners:

May 13 – June 17

May 14 – June 18

Advanced Manners:

May 13 – June 17

Tails on the Trails

June 9 – June 30



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Check out our blog:
www.htdogtraining.com

Walking with Your Dog: End the Leash War

One of the most common issues dog owners face is their dog pulling on the leash. Despite the plethora of “no pull” equipment, many dogs still pull on the leash. The equipment *may* help to discourage some pulling, but it does not address the underlying issue – a distracted dog that cannot focus on his owner - or provide any training instruction for the dog.

Leash walking is a team effort; dog and human moving together. But more often than not, the human half of the team is tugging and pulling on the leash just as much - if not more than - the dog; resulting in a leash war! The key to a successful, no pull walk is to teach your dog walking together is fun and rewarding!

If your dog is a tough puller, using a no pull harness will remove pressure from your dog’s neck; preventing injury during the training process. With consistent training setting your dog up for success, you will be able to use a regular flat collar.

To achieve a harmonious leash walk, first teach your dog to follow at your side OFF leash. In a safe enclosed area, encourage your dog to walk with you by patting your leg, saying his name and “let’s go” or “with me.” You may use a treat to lure him to your side. Move forward, reminding

Walking in harmony...



your dog to walk with you. Change directions often and quickly; and as you turn say “this way” teaching your dog to look to you for direction. As your dog walks at your side, you may reward with an occasional treat, and use LOTS of praise and encouragement.

Once your dog has mastered following you, watching you for direction changes, add in the leash. At first, lay the leash over your arm so you do not tug on it inadvertently. Practice just as you did with no leash, using your voice and body language to direct and communicate with your dog. Practice in a low distraction area. When your dog is consistently walking at your side, it is time to move your lessons to a higher distraction area, such as your driveway.

It is very important to increase distractions *slowly*; you will not be able to go from a fenced yard to walking at the park. Build a solid teamwork walk in an area where your dog will be successful first, so he has a behavior pattern to reference when he is taken to a more distracting environment. Next, start walking up and down your driveway, holding the leash carefully, and using the skills you and your dog developed walking together off leash. Praise your dog for eye contact and walking with you with a slack leash.

Once your dog understands the rules of walking with you – versus walking you! – you will successfully be able to increase the distractions on your walk. Be careful not to increase distractions too quickly, or you will lose your dog’s focus and he will start to pull again. Before you know it, you will be walking park trails and public events with a well behaved dog!

Q's Views...



From the day I came home as a baby puppy, my Momma would practice walking on a leash with me. I was so little; I really did not need a leash at all. My legs were too short to get too far away! I figured out she was teaching me the leash did not mean to pull away from her, but to stay close by.

As I got bigger and stronger, I learned those same rules applied in the front yard, on the side walk, and everywhere we went. Because my leash training started when I was a baby, I never learned to pull on my leash. I think it is much easier to do things right from the start! Keep that in mind if you get a puppy!!

Koda's Komments...



When I was a young pup, I went on walks with my amazing big brother Tucker. I knew from day one that Tucker was the best, smartest dog bro a pup could have in life. So when Tuck went fast, so did I!! My mom, however, is mega slow on walks.

My mom decided to teach Tuck and I to walk nice on leash separately first. When we each understood the rules one on one, she started the process over again, walking us together.

It worked! Tuck and I liked walking with her because she was fun and sometimes had treats!

A HAPPY TAILS TALE....

Just in time for spring! A newsletter on leash walking! I am finalizing this copy on our first 60 degree day since November. It has been a long winter and many dog owners have not been out walking with their dogs in a long time. Now the piles of snow are vanishing, and it is time to get out and walk your dog!

If your dog has a nice leash walk and you have not been out in a while, you may need to do some refresher training. For others, it is time to get that leash walk into harmony! No more being pulled down the sidewalks or trails behind your dog!

In addition to the tips offered here, upcoming classes will address the various skill levels of leash walking. Doggy Manners is great for beginners and those needing improvement in moderate level distractions. If you and your dog have mastered your walk, but want to fine tune in high activity, Tails on the Trails is perfect for you! And finally, if you are in between those two categories, Advanced Manners will build on the skills from beginner level and prepare you for high activity challenges.

Walking with your dog can and should be a fun, bonding experience. If you are frustrated on your walk, the stress goes right down the leash to your dog – causing him to behave poorly. Dogs need a stress free partnership for a successful walk.

So, no excuses! Help is here! It's time to find the harmony of walking with your dog.

Kirb's Blurb!



I hate harnesses including seat belts, walking harnesses and head halters. If I have one on, I simply shut down; lying on the ground, eyes closed, waiting for the torture to end. So my mom had to train me not to pull on my leash using my regular collar.

She taught me to follow her. I learned following her got me good stuff; so I would follow her all the time! One day, she had me follow her with my leash on. I was not sure why I needed it, since she was right there, but I went with it anyway.

Sometimes it was hard to remember to follow her when I saw fun stuff – like other doggies! Mom would remind me to focus by being funny or exciting; then I did not pull and walked nicely with my best friend!