



Polite Leash Walking

Walking politely on leash is very difficult for most dogs. Leash walking is a skill, just like teaching your dog to sit, down or stay.

To have a dog that walks politely on leash, begin inside. Practice loose leash walking inside where there are few distractions before you "graduate" to the exciting outdoors.

Begin in a room with few distractions.

Keep the leash loose, take a few steps forward and stop. Wait for your dog to offer you attention. If your dog pulls, become a tree and do not move. Some dogs will naturally turn and check in with you when you stop moving but most need a bit of encouragement. When your dog offers attention praise and/or reward her with a treat and begin to move forward again.

Walks are great for dogs but they also need additional exercise. Playing hide and seek, fetch and tug are all great exercise for your dog. These activities are great to do before your walk. Playing and exercising your dog a bit before the walk can help her behave during the walk.

Ask your dog to perform a few obedience exercises such as sit, down and stay and/or ask her to perform a trick such as paw, rollover, bow, etc. This will help get your dog thinking about working with you.

Have a dog that loves to sniff during walks? Consider using sniffing as a reward for good behavior. Ask your dog to walk with you for a short distance. If she walks politely, reward her by releasing her to "go sniff."

Practice an uh-oh turn for those times you and your dog get into a situation where you need to make a hasty exit. It is important for you and your dog to be able to move together quickly away from a dangerous or frightening situation.

Think you may need some additional control of your dog while she is learning to walk politely? Head collars and harnesses that have the leash attach in the front can be excellent management tools. Be sure to read the instructions carefully so they are fitted and used properly.

Be consistent and practice polite leash walking inside. Most dogs initially need both management and training to help them become good leash walkers.

CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP: info@micadogtraining.com

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