

Potty Training

Most dogs will wait until no one is looking to pee or poop in the house. In order to fix this you need to be able to catch them in the act. Go back to house breaking 101. The dog is never out of your sight. If you need time to take care of other things and you cannot watch the dog then they need to be crated or in an x pen.

Anytime they are out in the house they need to be tethered to you. As soon as you see them getting ready to pee or poop, interrupt them with a clap of your hands and immediately pick them up and take them outside. Tons of praise when they do pee or poop outside.

Clean up any accidents inside with a good enzymatic cleaner to thoroughly remove all traces of the smell.

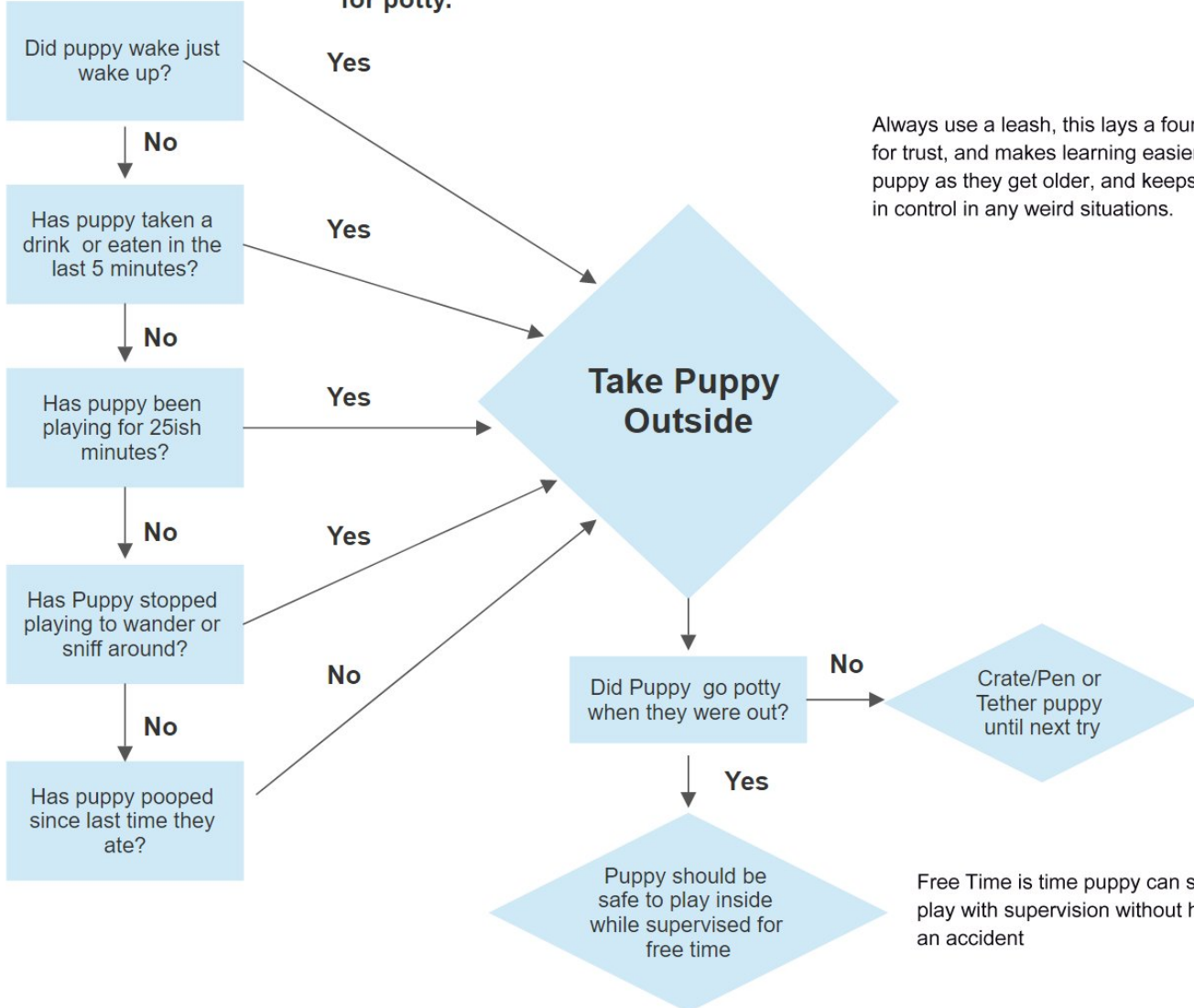
Consistently is key to fixing this.

Rule of thumb: A puppy can hold their potty for 1 hr for every month they are old, 2 mnths, 2 hrs max, 3 mnths 3hrs max. start off small and take puppy out as often as every 20 minutes and every 5-10 mins after eating/drinking and immediately after waking up for any naps. Try for longer intervals, but remember your puppy is a baby and accidents happen.

Where or What is Puppy doing

NOTE: As a general rule of thumb, a puppy can hold their potty for 1hr for every month old they are. So 2 mnths, 2hrs max, 3 mnths, 3hrs max start small, every 20 or so minutes to take your puppy out to lay the foundation of a routine of going out and getting praise for going outside for potty.

Always use a leash, this lays a foundation for trust, and makes learning easier for the puppy as they get older, and keeps you in control in any weird situations.



Free Time is time puppy can safely play with supervision without having an accident

How to deter indoor barking.

I am slightly hearing impaired so I want my dogs to alert me to noises, people near the house or the doorbell so barking is OK. The key is that they need to stop barking when I ask. My cue is "Thank you". (As in thanks for letting me know). Once I say the cue they stop barking.

Here are the steps to train it:

Dogs bark, I get near the dogs, say thank you and run to the kitchen. Dogs stop barking and follow me to see what's going on. Once they join me in the kitchen they get a yummy treat. Keep doing this until you notice when you say thank you the dogs beat you to the kitchen! Now say thank you and run to another room. Once they find you big yummy treat.

Once they catch on you can yell thank you from anywhere in the house and they will stop barking and come to find you. Lots of praise and loving when they do.

If it is someone at the door, I can then send them to their "place" and answer the door in peace.

During training I put a sign on my door that says "dogs in training, may take a minute to answer, please be patient"

Window/Fence Barking Deter

The frustration a dog feels from watching activities going on outside his window for months or even years can often lead to excited and even aggressive barking. This, in turn, is often a precursor to aggressive displays when in a fenced-in yard or out on walks.

Make your and your dogs life better. Teach her to stop barking by thanking her for the information and encouraging her to leave the window.

IMPORTANT: Your dog must be wearing a drag leash (or at the very least a long handle) for control until she has completely understood Step 2 of the training.

Step 1... As soon as the dog barks, go get her by the leash; say “Thank you, let’s get a cookie” and quickly take her to where the cookies are (away from the window... maybe the kitchen?). Give her a cookie and praise her for being quiet as she eats it. Take your time so she forgets about the distraction. Don’t be excited... stay calm!

Step 2... (Once the dog seems to expect the above ritual so she starts coming to you for a cookie when you say “Thank you”) When the dog barks, say “Thank you” and meet her in the kitchen (or wherever) for a cookie. Stay with dog until she is calm (and be calm yourself).

Step 3... When the dog barks, say “Thank you”. Dog should come see you wherever you are. Give her a cookie. Now you can start slowly weaning off the cookies. Sometimes just praise dog and go back to what you were doing.

NOTE: You can substitute “Quiet” for “Thank you” if you prefer.

In order to reinforce the training, never allow your dog to have unsupervised access to windows, or even to look through fences in the yard. Don’t leave her alone in the yard for long periods of time. Instead, restrict access when she is alone, with the help of window coverings, privacy film, crating/confinement, or simply preventing access to the room these windows are in.

When you are with your dog by the window or in the yard, and she notices people and dogs walking by, mark and reinforce her with food, play and praise, for calmly noticing passersby.

Running out doors or gates

Boundary training

Boundary training. Essentially teaching him that any open door is not an opportunity to go through it. He must be invited or cued to move.

Start on leash at any door or gate you want to work on.

With the door closed have him sit beside you. Move to open the door. If he moves, upward pressure on the leash until he sits again, don't repeat your sit cue. You said it once, just reinforce it with the leash correction. Keep doing this until he can stay sitting even with the door wide open. This could take some time so have lots of patience.

Once he can stay with the door open, cue him to move and walk him through the door. You can use "ok" or "let's go" or whatever word works for you.

Practice this at different barriers, doors, gates, car...

Some people may suggest using a "wait" cue as you open the door but I prefer my dogs to learn to not move through a door until invited. The smart ones will figure out if you don't say "wait" then that means they can bolt out.

A default never move through a door unless cued to move is safer.

Introducing to cats

It's important to consider both animals' personalities. Look out for the dogs attempts to aggressively chase, pin, pick up or otherwise "manhandle" the cat.

Introduction:

- 1) Across a few days, rotate which animal has freedom and which is confined to allow each animal plenty of time to investigate the other one's scent.
- 2) Sometimes the dog should be confined to a crate or another room (or taken to another location if he can't be left alone) to allow the cat time to roam free and investigate the smell of the dog.
- 3) Allow both animals to be in the same room at the same time, but keep the dog securely leashed.
- 4) Continue with this type of introduction until the dog is calm and ignores the cat, and the cat is calm, eating and using the litter box normally. If there is any fear or aggression displayed on either animal's part, continue keeping the animals apart. If there is no fear or aggression continue on until both animals are calm and comfortable.

Time and order of adoption affects the relationship, cats younger than six months and dogs younger than one year will get along better.

Stealing food off counters or tables

Known as counter surfing.

The simplest solution, of course, is to manage the situation so that your dog doesn't have access to food on the counters. Here are some tips:

1 Never keep food on your counters. If your dog doesn't find any food when he jumps up, he's not getting rewarded for counter surfing.

2 Wipe the counter tops thoroughly when you are done cooking so that there's no delicious residue for the dog to lick up. Licking something tasty on a counter can be just as rewarding as finding a piece of food to snack on.

3 Crate your dog during meal preparation. The process of cooking tends to involve food spread out on the counters, making it easy for your dog to snag a morsel when you're not looking. If you don't have a crate, you can use a baby gate in the doorway to restrict access to the kitchen or put the dog in another room while you cook.

The main objective here is to arrange your environment (the kitchen and counter tops) so that the dog does not have the opportunity for reinforcement (finding food), which makes him more likely to jump up on the counter in the future.

For the training aspect, teach a place command or boundary training. The place command can be used to keep the dogs out of the kitchen during food prep and boundary training will teach them not to enter the kitchen unless invited.

Details for teaching a place command and boundary training

Train a place command. Dogs are smart and recognize situations. If done well they will remove themselves whenever you get ready to eat. Mine go to their beds without a command now as soon as they see anyone setting the table.

Pick a spot in the house or room. A dog bed or crate or blanket.

Starting from a foot or so away with your dog beside you, toss a treat onto the bed (or into the crate) and say your command. In our house we use "go lay down". Others simply use "place" or "condo".

Once you get them freely moving towards the bed/crate then try just the command and hand movement as if you were tossing a treat but don't actually toss a treat.

As soon as they move towards the bed on their own, then throw the treat.

Then delay the treat toss by a few seconds, this helps build the stay duration on the bed.

Continue this until you get to 30 seconds before tossing the treat. Be patient and go slow.

Once you have a 30 second stay start building distance. Send them from 3 feet away, 6 feet away etc.

Boundary training for doorways, gates and thresholds to rooms (the kitchen for example)

Essentially teaching him that any open door is not an opportunity to go through it. He must be invited or cued to move.

Start on leash at any door or gate you want to work on.

With the door closed have him sit beside you. Move to open the door. If he moves, upward pressure on the leash until he sits again, don't repeat your sit cue. You said it once, just reinforce it with the leash correction. Keep doing this until he can stay sitting even with the door wide open. This could take some time so have lots of patience.

Once he can stay with the door open, cue him to move and walk him through the door. You can use "ok" or "let's go" or whatever word works for you.

Practice this at different barriers, doors, gates, car...

Some people may suggest using a "wait" cue as you open the door but I prefer my dogs to learn to not move through a door until invited. The smart ones will figure out if you don't say "wait" then that means they can bolt out.

A default never move through a door unless cued to move is safer.

CRATE TRAINING & SEPARATION ANXIETY

Keeping your dog safe and helpful for house breaking, working separation anxiety, and stopping destructive chewing

Start feeding all meals in the crate, leave the door open during the day when the dog is not in the crate so they can choose to go inside of it on their own, and make the crate as “positive” of an experience as possible. Start putting the dog in the crate for a couple of minutes at a time, stay in sight but do not interact with the dog. Do not reward anxious behavior such as whining, scratching, or barking to get your attention, the dog is only allowed to leave the crate when they are calm. Then you can let them out but don't act excited. Just open the kennel door and walk away. By letting them out when they are excited or acting excited when you release them from the kennel you're solidifying in their mind that being upset when you leave is a good thing. Start working up to more time in the crate at a time, and eventually start working your way out of sight. When you come home do not greet the dog for five minutes or until they have 'forgotten' that you just came back and are calm, which makes it so that your arrival is much less exciting. When the arrival of you isn't as exciting, it helps remove the anxiety about you coming back. Kennel boundaries are just as important to work on as everything else regarding training. To work on this start close with their kennel door closed (not locked just shut, if you can't shut it without it locking then leave it slightly cracked). Walk back and forth in front of their crate, if they go to bust out, give the “kennel” command that you use and close the door quick into them. This will cause them to back up. The goal isn't to hit them, but just as a warning they will probably run into it a few times not expecting it. We want them to not want to bolt out just because there isn't a physical boundary, but they have to learn first that just because the door is open, it doesn't mean there isn't a “boundary” there (even though it's imaginary and you create it). After you can move back and forth in front of the door without them trying to test that boundary, take a step back and repeat when you get to the opposite side of the room and they don't break their position, repeat steps with the door slightly more ajar. Repeat until the door is wide open and they don't try breaking their position. Once you get to that, take a step out of sight for a second then come back into view, then release as long as they don't break position. On top of basic obedience, start working on the distance & duration at which your dog is following commands. You want to try to teach them that it's okay for them to not be touching you or being near you all of the time. Do this by practicing standing farther away from your dog than normal and giving them commands, slowly build up the distance away at which you stand. Also keep in mind, a dog that is properly mentally & physically tired out will show less anxious behavior than a dog that isn't.

CRATE TRAINING

For puppies and dogs who are resistant to crates

Young puppies adapt quite easily to crates. Older pups and adult dogs who have never been exposed to one may have difficulty getting used to a crate. Crates are useful for limiting destructive behavior until a dog is reliable and they are wonderful for housetraining. Dogs have the instinct to keep their crates clean. The size of the crate is critical. If it is too large, the dog can mess in one corner and escape to another corner. To avoid having to buy several sizes of crates for a growing pup, you can buy the full size he will need and put a movable barrier in it while he grows. These are often sold with the crate. Do not put a blanket or mat in the crate until the dog is housetrained. They can absorb urine and delay the dog's reliability.

Possible exceptions to the effectiveness of crates are dogs from puppy mills or pet stores.

These dogs are often quite accustomed to lying in their own excrement.

PROGRESSIONS FOR CRATE TRAINING

1 Feed your dog in his crate without shutting the door.

2 Toss cookies or treats in the crate while making sure the dog sees you do it. Back away and let him find it. Praise him sincerely and enthusiastically when he is in the crate. If he shows no interest, find a better treat. Do not shut the door at this stage. Repeat until he is comfortable with the procedure.

3 Throw his favorite toy into the crate for him to find. Praise him for fetching it and play with him.

4 Once your dog is comfortable going into the crate to eat, find treats or get his toy, throw a few treats in and once he is inside, shut the door, praise him if he is quiet, count to two, then open the door and let him out. Slowly work up a few seconds at a time until you can leave the door closed for 30 seconds. Stay in the

room. Do this over several sessions and vary the time the door is closed (e.g., 20sec, 5sec, 15sec, 10sec. etc.) Always make sure he is quiet before you let him out. When he is good at 30 seconds, you can start working up to 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 20 minutes, until you get to 30 minutes.

5 A good tool to help with crate training is a Kong toy stuffed with peanut butter or Cheez Whiz. Don't put a stuffed toy in a crate with a dog that chews. All crate toys should be indestructible to prevent the dog swallowing foreign objects when left alone in his crate. Do not leave a choke collar on a dog in a crate. If it should catch on something, the dog could be seriously injured.

6 Once your dog can tolerate being shut in his crate for 5-10 minutes, you can start teaching him to be in there while you leave the room. Toss a few treats in his crate, shut the door, leave the room and come right back in. Praise him for being quiet and let him out. Work up the time slowly in the same way as you did when you were in the room with him.

7 When your dog is comfortable in his crate with you somewhere else in the house, you can start leaving him in it when you go out. Make your first trip no more than 15 minutes. Act calmly when leaving and returning; avoid long drawn-out goodbyes. This will take the stress out of your arrivals and departures.

Keeping a dog in his crate while you are out or unable to keep a watchful eye on him is the ideal way to keep him safe and to help keep you sane. Do not rush to give him the run of the house; this is a surefire way to damage your relationship with your dog. You would never think of leaving a toddler to roam around the house unsupervised—he would certainly be in a crib or playpen. The same goes for a puppy and this is usually until he is at least 1 year old with some high-energy dogs taking longer. Be patient!

Excited greeting of guests and visitors

Stop the jumping!

I teach an exercise in controlled greetings.

Start by asking the person to wait a second while you prepare. I usually tell them that we are working on training controlled greetings and ask if they would like to help me. Most people are happy to help and are “rewarded” with a pleasant interaction with your dog.

With your dog at your side, place your hand in their collar, gently but firmly. Locking your elbow helps with the lunging and jumping up.

Do not ask the dog to sit or stay at this point as their excitement at being petted will usually result in them moving anyway.

Have a very enticing treat ready. Hold the treat in front of their nose for a second so they can smell it then hide it behind your back.

Ask the person to come in and pet your dog while keeping control with your hand in their collar.

Once the person has finished petting and moves away, bring the treat out from behind your back and put it at their nose for a second. Once they smell it, bring it up beside your face so that they look up at you. Praise and feed the treat.

Practice this often especially at home with friends and family.

Another option is have a leash and harness or collar on them. They sit and wait until given the command to go greet. At the first sign of jumping, mouthing or over excitement they're removed from the room. Come back a few seconds later. Have the person completely ignore the dog. When the dog is calm they can check with you that it's ok to approach. Rinse and repeat. As soon as the front feet are off the floor out the room ya go. Dogs I've worked with catch on pretty quick that they don't get to have fun if they do the undesirable things.

As they start staying calm, you can practice off leash by having the person who they're greeting carry a few tasty treats. When the dog sees them, and greets calmly on command, they get a treat dropped on the floor, encouraging down and around behavior and not up to grab.

Walking on leash no pulling

Loose leash walking.

Something a lot of dog owners don't realize is that unless you are jogging or biking with your dog, a walk around the neighborhood is mostly about socializing and has very little to do with true exercise.

They then take a dog who has been resting/sleeping/chilling put a leash on it and take it out and don't understand why they end up with this crazy beast at the end of the leash!

I recommend a good 5 minute intense play session in the house before walks. Throw a ball up and down the hallway, a vigorous game of tug, play hide and seek. Anything to get the dog's heart rate up and dissipate some energy. Then give them 5 minutes of rest to bring the energy level back to normal.

Teaching a loose leash walk should always start inside where there are limited distractions. The dog needs to have a basic understanding of what you are expecting from them before being asked to do it outside with all its inherent distractions! (Did someone say squirrel?!)

Once you have a nice, consistent loose leash walk indoors you can move outside but stay close to home. Up and down your driveway or around your backyard. Remember that as you increase the level of difficulty and distractions you may need to increase the value of your treats. The treat your dog worked for inside may not be enticing enough once you move outdoors.

You will need a cue that tells the dog to walk with you, follow me, stay close, heel and let's go as examples. Say this cue a few seconds before you start walking.

Once you are getting some attention and loose leash walking outside you can start to fade the treats and use the great outdoors as your reward.

(More info on the science behind this here. <https://www.akc.org/.../what-is-the-premack-principle-in.../>)

Ensure you have a calm dog before starting (see above and below steps).

Cue your loose leash walk. "Let's go". Get 4-5 steps of loose leash walking with no pulling and then give a release cue that tells the dog he can now enjoy nature. I use "off you go". Dog is not allowed to pull but they can now set the tone for the walk. Sniffing, peeing, rolling in the grass, following a scent while you follow along behind them ensuring no tension on the leash.

After 20-30 seconds of this cue your walking again. "Let's go" and get another 4-5 steps of attention before releasing them again.

Once they understand this your walk becomes an alternating set of "let's go" and "off you go" with varying amounts of time for each.

It is also a good idea to start your walk in the manner you want it to continue. For most dogs the walk starts the minute you put on your shoes and pick up their leash. If this sets your dog off into a frenzy of barking/whining/jumping/running around then that is what you will get on your first step out the door.

Your planned pleasant walk around the neighborhood has now become a fight for control.

To fix this is simple but takes some patience and consistency.

Your pre walk routine could look something like this...

Put on your shoes, dog acts up

You walk away and sit down in the living room or kitchen and ignore the dog.

Dog calms down.

You pick up the leash, dog acts up

Put the leash away and go sit down.

Repeat until you have a dog that sits or stands quietly for you to attach the leash.

You reach to open the door, dog acts up.

Drop everything, go sit down.

Repeat these steps as often as needed until you can stand there with a calm dog beside you and then walk out the door. (You can also search "boundary training" in the group for more details on this)

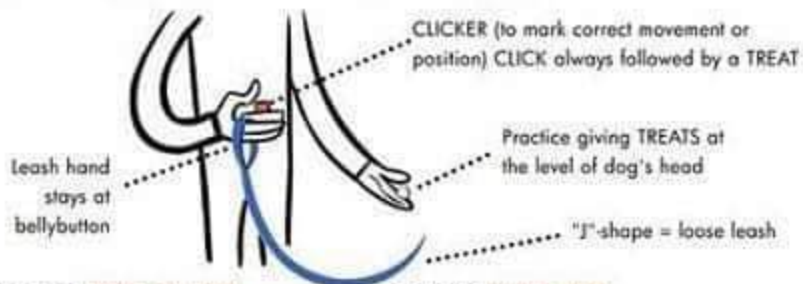
See below info graphics for details on teaching on a loose leash.

TEACHING YOUR DOG TO WALK POLITELY ON LEASH

PART ONE: Start in a small, boring space. Go at your dog's pace.

The most important step in teaching your dog to walk politely on leash is showing your dog where you want him to be while he is on leash.

To make things easier for your dog, start practicing in a small, boring space. This improves the odds that your dog will stay close to you.



PRACTICE WITH NO DOG

Practice clicking and feeding a treat at your pant seam, at the level of your dog's head.

PRACTICE WITH DOG

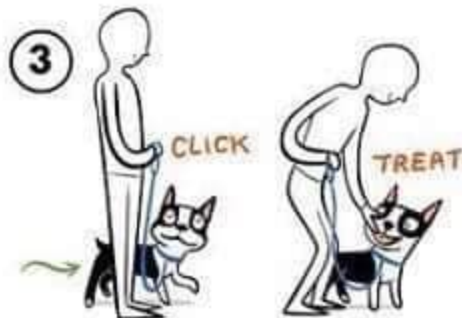
Practice holding the leash at your belly button as you click and feed.



Click and treat rapidly a few times in the correct position.



Move slightly out of heel position and wait for your dog to move closer to you.



As soon as your dog moves even the tiniest step closer to you, click and feed at the "ideal" head position.



Repeat until your dog moves into heel position every time you move out of it.



Gradually take more and more steps between clicks and treats. If your dog gets confused, go back to just one step and then increase the number of steps more slowly to help him understand.



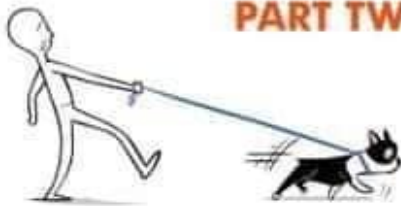
Then start changing direction and speed.

7

Next, move to a larger or more interesting space, and start over from STEP 1. When your dog can handle STEP 6 in the new space, move to another new space, starting over from STEP 1 again.

TEACHING YOUR DOG TO WALK POLITELY ON LEASH

PART TWO: Help! My Dog Is Pulling!



If pulling on the leash gets your dog where he wants to go, he'll keep pulling. To avoid teaching your dog that pulling is a good strategy, use one of the techniques described below.

TECHNIQUE 1: "I AM A ROCK"

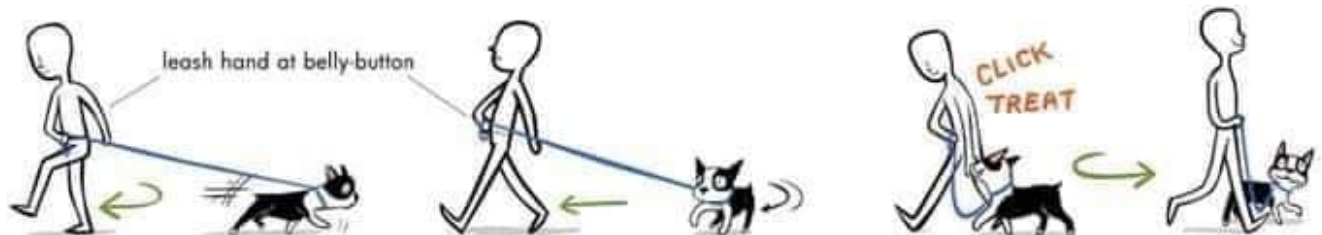


When your dog pulls, stop in your tracks. Wait. As you wait, pretend you have no dog.

When your dog backs up or turns to you, click and feed a treat at your pant seam.

Then move forward again.

TECHNIQUE 2: "BACK & FORTH"



When your dog pulls, turn around and walk purposefully in the opposite direction. When your dog catches up to heel position...

Click and treat. Then turn around and continue in your original direction.

TECHNIQUE 3: "OFF AT AN ANGLE"



This is a great technique for dogs who are very strong. When your dog pulls, simply move away at a random angle that isn't 180 degrees.

Wait for your dog to catch up to heel position.

Click and treat. Then turn around and continue in your original direction again.

If your dog keeps pulling, the environment is probably too exciting. Go back to teaching your dog polite leash walking in a less exciting place. Then build up gradually to walking on leash in the exciting environment again.

Remember to go back to PART ONE every time you practice in a new place.

Barking lunging and pulling on leash

Reacting to other dogs, people, vehicles etc

Reactivity in your dog can be a scary and often embarrassing behavior.

Contrary to what it may look like, this is not your dog being protective, most reactivity is fear based and not actual aggression.

There is no magic cure all for this behavior as each dog has their own triggers and reactions.

This is best usually worked with in conjunction with an in person trainer who can assess the dog's triggers and reactions in a controlled environment and formulate a training plan to help.

Pet owners on their own can help make it better and I will list some exercises below but ultimately in person help is the most effective.

The main idea to help deal with the reactivity is to keep the dog at a level of calmness where they can still learn. Once your dog has reached the point of barking/growling/lunging they are beyond the point where they can learn.

What we are trying to do is change the dog's mindset from "there's another dog I'm going to bark at it" to "there's another dog that means I get a reward from my owner"

Have very enticing treats on hand. Cut up cooked chicken breast, cut up hot dogs or cheese are good examples.

Step one is to determine your dog's bubble. What is the distance from trigger (another dog or person for example) that your dog can be aware of the trigger but not reacting to it? 5 feet? 10? 60?

Start at the point where your dog sees the trigger and immediately stop moving.

Wait for any indication of your dog re-engaging with you. Anything where he takes his attention off of the trigger and towards you. A head turn, change in body posture, ignoring the trigger, looking up at you. As soon as you see that praise and treat. If the dog does not disengage at all try taking a couple of steps backwards and see if they will move with you. If they do, praise and treat.

Slowly, step by step, move closer to the trigger, always waiting for the dog to re-engage with you before taking another step.

The end goal is to be able to walk past the trigger with your dog focused on you.

This can take weeks to perfect so be patient and go slow.

Any time your dog gets to the point of reacting you are going too fast and need to go back a few steps in your training.

If you encounter a situation where you cannot create any distance between you and the trigger than simply hold your dog by his collar, not the end of the leash, and keep them close to your side until the trigger moves on.

Barking or scared dog?
COUNTERCONDITIONING & DESENSITIZATION
= Pairing Monsters with Very Good Things



1. Monsters ALWAYS cause Very Good Things
2. ONLY Monsters cause Very Good Things
3. Monsters must keep their DISTANCE, then, over many repetitions GRADUALLY get closer so that the dog is comfortable all the way through.

It is important to have the LOVE of the Very Good Things be stronger than the FEAR of the Monsters.

After many repetitions of...



You get...



Place command

Teaches the dog to self settle.

Train a place command. Dogs are smart and recognize situations. If done well they will remove themselves whenever you get ready to eat. Mine go to their beds without a command now as soon as they see anyone setting the table.

Pick a spot in the house or room. A dog bed or crate or blanket.

Starting from a foot or so away with your dog beside you, toss a treat onto the bed (or into the crate) and say your command. In our house we use "go lay down". Others simply use "place" or "condo".

Once you get them freely moving towards the bed/crate then try just the command and hand movement as if you were tossing a treat but don't actually toss a treat.

As soon as they move towards the bed on their own, then throw the treat.

Then delay the treat toss by a few seconds, this helps build the stay duration on the bed.

Continue this until you get to 30 seconds before tossing the treat. Be patient and go slow.

Once you have a 30 second stay start building distance. Send them from 3 feet away, 6 feet away etc.

Coming when called / Recall

1 – Dog is on a drag leash. Two people stand facing each other and take turns calling the dog. When he gets to the handler, he is lured into a sit in front and then given a treat. If the dog does not come immediately, go get him, put your hands in his collar and back up to where he should have come. Goal: Repeat until handlers are 12' apart.

2 – Dog is on a drag leash. One handler goes out of sight (around a corner into another room). Call the dog, praise, lure into a sit and reward with a treat. If the dog can't find the handler, go to the dog, gently take him by the collar to where the handler called him, praise and lure him into a sit, reward. Handler stays where he is with the dog, and 2nd handler calls the dog. Goal: Repeat until the dog doesn't hesitate in finding the handler.

3 – Repeat the sequence as above, but now hide in different rooms in the house. If the dog needs help, take him by the collar and guide him to where he was called. Praise and reward dog every time he finds a handler. Goal: Repeat until dog finds handler every time.

4 – Repeat step 1, but go outside into the yard (fenced, please!).

5 – Repeat step 2 outside in the yard. Go back on leash if the dog is distracted, praise and lure into sit with treat. Goal: Repeat until dog comes every time, even with distractions.

6 – When your dog is loose and playing in your fenced yard, practice hiding from him, getting at least 20' away. Call him and when he finds you praise, lure him into a sit and reward.

7 – Once the dog is trained you don't need to reward him with a treat every time, but do so frequently. Continue to practice in a fenced area under all kinds of distracting conditions, such as someone else clapping their hands, offering him a toy or food or when a squirrel is close by.

Destructive behavior / barking when home alone

Separation anxiety

Separation anxiety is a tough one and does require a lot of work to overcome. It can be an overwhelming task for most dog owners. There is no quick fix.

The below trainer offers virtual help to work through it.

<https://malenademartini.com/>

Patricia McConnell's book may also help. (Link to Amazon below)

https://www.amazon.com/.../dp/1891767054/ref=mp_s_a_1_3...?ll+be+home+soon&sr=8-3

Please note that I am not affiliated with either of these trainers but find their information to be helpful.

Male dog peeing in the house.

Known as marking.

Hi. Back to potty training 101. He's either crated or tethered to you. You need to catch him in the act, interrupt him with a clap of your hands or an "ah ah" and immediately take him outside.

All areas he has already marked need a thorough cleaning with an enzymatic cleaner to completely remove all scent. Including any washable items.

Alternatively you can buy belly bands but they are a bandaid fix and will not change the behavior

Growling barking snapping over food, toys or people

Resource guarding of food

This behavior is called resource guarding.

I would suggest a two pronged approach here.

Management and training. Management for those instances where you don't have the time or energy to work through the behavior and training for when you do.

Management is as simple as allowing the dog peace while eating. Feed the meals in a crate or in a separate room behind a barrier or with the door closed. This allows the dog to relax and eat without being stressed and on guard.

For training, we want to change the dog's mindset.

Starting from the closest you can get to them while they are eating without them growling or reacting. From that place toss a super yummy treat towards them, like a piece of cooked chicken breast or a small piece of hot dog. Say nothing, just toss and walk away. Do this for a few days and then see if you can get a bit closer before tossing the treat. Don't push or try to get too close too fast. Your end goal here is to be able to walk right up beside your dog and drop the treat in the bowl. This could take days or weeks depending on how often you are able to practice and how your dog responds.

We want his brain to change from "someone is close to my bowl, I need to protect it so they don't take it away" to "someone is close to my bowl, I wonder what yummy treat I am getting this time?"

Nail Trims

Some dogs are just not fans of pedicures!

I have noted over the years that tool choice can play a part in how receptive (or not) the dog is to nail trims. Some of the less expensive tools out there are really not well designed. Some can even squeeze the nail while cutting it and while not necessarily painful, it can be uncomfortable. Some dogs can startle at the unexpected “click” as the nail is cut.

Personally I use a dremel rotary tool. It is quick, more accurate and less likely to cut the quick and cause bleeding. If you prefer clippers I recommend the Millers Forge brand (red handle).

Get yourself a good handful of tasty treats. Something he loves and will ONLY get when training for nail trims.

Start with no tools around. Touch his foot and treat. Pick up a paw and treat. Hold a paw and gently squeeze a toe and treat.

Repeat these steps while holding the grinder (not turned on yet) or clippers in your other hand.

Add the step of touching the grinder (still not turned on) or clippers to a nail and treat.

Repeat all of the above steps again now with the grinder in one hand and turned on.

Each of these steps can take a few minutes or a few days.

Go at your dog's pace. If at any time he reacts, stop. Give it a break for a few hours and then try again starting at the step before he reacted the last time.

Be patient.

Dangers of dog parks

Why they are not a great idea for most dogs.

This article is an important one for any dog owner to read. If you care about your dog's safety you really need to understand the risks and the dangers of dog parks.

As a professional dog trainer for over 20 years, I know a fair bit about dog behavior and my attitude on dog parks is simply, don't take the risk. Your dog's life is way too precious!

I have spoken with many vets, other dog trainers and behaviorists. The facts are this, while there are no recorded statistics to show numbers, the number of dogs getting seriously injured and even killed each year due to dog park aggression is alarming.

But my dog needs the dog park...

Let's look at the standard arguments from dog owners as to why they feel their dog or puppy needs to go to a dog park. My answers follow:

1. My dog needs the socializing.

Yes, your dog does need socializing with other canines, however it must be in a controlled, supervised environment and only if your dog is a well-adjusted, calm and relaxed dog. If your dog has any of the following issues; anxiety, nervousness, hyper-activity, fear, or is overtly dominant, then before socializing with other canines, your dog needs the help of a professional.

2. My dog doesn't like to walk on a lead

A dog that doesn't like walking on a lead, is a dog that hasn't been trained to walk properly on a lead and enjoy it. Again, this is when a dog trainer needs to come into the picture. The same goes for a dog that pulls on the lead, even while enjoying his walk.

3. My dog loves playing at the park

Of course dogs love the freedom to be able to run around in a pack of other dogs, but a well functioning dog pack, is one that works well together and where the hierarchy has been worked out and each dog knows its place. Throwing a bunch of dogs who don't properly know each other into an enclosed area to form a temporary and constantly-changing pack, is just plain dangerous.

More important reasons to avoid the dog park...

- No dog owner can possibly anticipate how other dogs are going to behave at a dog park at any given time.
- No dog owner can know with 100% certainty that their dog is going to get along with every dog it meets. Just like people, dogs are not going to like every other dog they meet, and this can also change as they mature.
- Some dogs immediately start rough playing, and this is known as “canine social incompetence”. No dog should ever rush up to another dog they don’t know and start rough play. Although not aggressive in itself, this rough play can trigger an aggressive response in a dog that is not used to it, or a dog that doesn’t want to be approached this way.
- Remember no matter how small, cute and fluffy a dog may be, it is a dog, with dog instincts not human ones, and despite the adorableness factor, it still may not have good dog social etiquette. Small snappy dogs can often cause huge brawls in dog parks, but due to their minute stature, they often end up looking like the victims, with the bigger dogs getting the blame.
- At a busy dog park, the excitement level is extremely high and excitement can quickly escalate to aggression if a dog steps out of line.
- At dog parks, dog owners are often too busy chatting and socializing with each other to watch the interaction between the dogs. Even if they are watching, most owners do not recognize when a dog is being intimidated, bullied or harassed. They will often leave it to the pack to “work it out amongst themselves”. This can result in emotional trauma, especially (but not exclusively) in puppies.
- If another dog attacks your dog, there is no lead on either dog that you can quickly grab to separate them. Instead, if you try to get between two fighting dogs, you also run the risk of getting seriously injured.
- Any dog is capable of biting, even the most placid dog. I have heard of dogs who have never ever bitten suddenly turning and biting. There are many reasons this could happen. They could be feeling sore or unwell, they may see a new dog who isn’t acting appropriately according to dog protocol, as a serious threat. They may be timid and frightened, or some dogs as they get older, just don’t have the patience anymore when a young excitable dog starts to annoy them and initiate play.
- Some dogs have never had proper training and socializing with other dogs in a

controlled environment with a qualified dog trainer, and so simply don't act appropriately. Often these dogs haven't learnt when to back off when another dog is given them warning signs. If a dog does not accurately know how to read the body language of another dog, who is clearly giving off signs of leave me alone, then the young dog may get bitten if it keeps annoying the other dog. Biting is most dog's natural defense mechanisms.

- Mixing large dogs with small and fragile dogs is a recipe for disaster. Even playing together without super close supervision and the ability to reel in your dog can lead to serious and even fatal accidents. Big dogs of course can live and play happily with small dogs, if they have a responsible owner and correct training, but in an off-leash dog park you have no control of the size or nature of the other dogs.

How to Socialize Your Dog Safely with other Dogs

To socialize your dog with other dogs, (only if your dog already has good doggy manners around other dogs) incorporate the following ideas into your dog's lifestyle;

- Play-dates with other dogs that you know are also well trained and relaxed around other dogs. This is initially best done by first taking both dogs for a calm walk together before introducing them into each others home territory.
- Regularly go walking together with another doggy friend.
- If your dog spends a lot of time alone, dog daycare may be an option.

Dropping your dog off at a well-run daycare once or twice a week while you're at work or running errands can be a great idea.

Remember you are your dog's best friend, so please make sure to walk your dog every day and to play and interact with him to keep him from getting bored and feeling lonely.

Two puppies at the same time! No!

Littermate syndrome explained.

- Give the puppies periodic time apart every single day. That means they should be regularly walked separately, played with separately, and trained separately.
 - Do not allow the pups to share a crate.
 - Feed meals separately, and out of two separate bowls.
 - Remember that both dogs are individuals. They will have unique personalities, may be motivated differently, and may have different energy levels and quirks.
 - Bond with the puppies individually, so that they are able to focus on you and not solely with each other.
-
- Littermate Syndrome - A Trainer's Perspective
 - Getting two dogs at the same time seems like a great idea. Dogs are social animals, and a dog who will be alone all day can easily turn to destructive behavior or become anxious. Two puppies can entertain each other and keep each other company. So, what's the problem with bringing home two puppies at once?
 - Professional trainers like myself recommend against bringing home two puppies around the same age, let alone two from the same litter. While this sounds like a good plan in theory, in practice it often causes quite a bit of heartache and potentially some serious aggression trouble.
 - In addition to the problems one might expect with bringing home siblings such as double food and vet costs and double the potty training work, new puppy owners need to focus on how the puppies will develop. Puppies' brains continue developing until they hit sexual maturity (and even a bit beyond that), and there's some convincing research out there that bringing two puppies home at the same time prevents one, or both, of the puppies from reaching his or her full potential.
 - Luckily for us trainers, this topic has been researched extensively by someone who knows all about creating behaviorally sound puppies: Guide Dog Organizations.
 - In order to maximize the use of their volunteer puppy raisers, one Guide Dog Organization decided to try an experiment. Willing homes were given not one, but two puppies to raise, thereby doubling the number of puppies the guide dog organization could work with. Puppies born to these organizations are tested before being placed and are tracked throughout their growth and development.

- What the organization found was startling. Placing two puppies in the same household always caused at least one puppy to become temperamentally unsuitable for work, even when both puppies started off as perfect candidates.
- When two puppies are placed together, they learn to rely on each other. One of the puppies always becomes shy, even when both puppies started off as bold and outgoing. This is a HUGE problem, since it means that the shy puppy never reaches his or her potential. In fact, this was such a major issue that the guide dog experiment was quickly halted, and to this day Guide Dog Organizations only place one puppy at a time in puppy raisers' homes, even when the homes are highly experienced.
- Other abhorrent and heart-breaking effects of Littermate Syndrome:
 - The shy puppy becomes increasingly withdrawn and introverted and never reaches potential
 - Often even the "bold" puppy turns out to be quite nervous and uncertain when separated
 - The puppies often become incredibly co-dependent, exhibiting high anxiety when separated
 - They often fail to bond to their human family as strongly as they otherwise would, if at all.
 - At social maturity, these puppies may begin fighting with one another, often quite severely.
 - Even non-sibling puppies can exhibit Littermate Syndrome when placed together.
 - Professional trainers recommend against getting two puppies within six months of one another, because the risks are just too high. This doesn't even take into consideration the other practical considerations, such as the increased costs of vet care, food, supplies, and training; the extra work of training and caring for two dogs; or the time requirements of two active puppies.
- Can littermate syndrome be prevented?
 - Theoretically, yes, however it's so difficult as to be nearly impossible in practice. Remember, even experienced guide dog puppy raisers aren't expected to be able to prevent this issue from developing. At a bare minimum, the two puppies would need to be crated and cared for separately, including separate walks, training classes, and playtime with their owners. The puppies need to have more one-on-one time with their new owners than they have with each other, effectively doubling the work and negating any of the possible benefits (i.e. companionship) that they were adopted together for in the first place.
 - Bottom Line: we absolutely know that puppies do best when brought home separately. If you want multiple dogs, consider purchasing or adopting adult dogs who are already done developing instead.