

Leash Training Your Dog

The next step in your dog's training program.

You will need to take care that the puppy doesn't get the leash wrapped around his legs as you work. This is one of the hazards of using a loose leash. The alternative is to keep the leash tight, but then you might accidentally pull on his collar, causing the pup to back away from you and have a bad experience. It will take far more work to overcome a bad experience than to maintain consistent positive training sessions.

Since this is more of a formal training exercise, you will utilize more turns and stops to maintain the pup's attention. He may receive pressure on his collar from time to time, but you should never drag your pup. If he lags or shows interest in something else, always coax him with the bait under his nose and slap your leg while using an enthusiastic tone of voice.

When preparing to stop and sit, hold the leash firmly against yourself as you stop. Immediately show puppy his bait and lure him into a sit as you give the command. Bridge the action and reward him, then continue on. It would be a good idea not to touch him at this time, as this releases him from concentration and you will have to call him to you again to regain it. As soon as the pup sits and gets his reward, continue on with another round of heeling.

Each time you stop, don't forget to vary your exercises. Ask the pup to sit or down/stay as you move around him. You can also have him just sit and then continue on with the heel. Even though this is considered formal training, you must keep the sessions short. Your canine is still very young and has a short attention span and tolerance. Five minutes at a time is all he needs.

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