



EAST FREMANTLE
Veterinary Clinic

Owners Handout – Week 3

EAST FREMANTLE VET CLINIC

Teaching your puppy to walk nicely on a loose lead

This is an essential lesson for your puppy to learn. You will be more likely to take your puppy out for a walk or on trips if they are able to walk well on a lead. Walking provides opportunities for environmental enrichment, mental and physical exercise, and social awareness.

A young puppy pulling on a lead may not be problematic, but when they become an adult they could be taking you for a walk!

Allow puppies the length of the lead (approximately 2 metres) to explore their surroundings, but don't allow them to drag you along or pull excessively while walking.

Getting your puppy to walk on a loose lead

- 1 Have your puppy correctly fitted with a flat or head collar. They should be comfortable before you start the exercise. Your Puppy Preschool® instructor can help with this
- 2 Fit your puppy with a light lead that is appropriate to their size. The buckle or clip that attaches the lead to the collar should not be too heavy for the puppy's neck
- 3 Hold a treat in front of your puppy's nose with one hand and move forward with the lead in the other hand
- 4 Encourage your puppy to follow the treat while keeping the lead loose. If your puppy surges forward, stop and wait until they turn around or stop pulling, then move forward again. Reward them when they stop pulling
- 5 Practise at home before taking your puppy out on walks.

TIPS

- Only move forward when the lead is slack
- Hold the lead loosely. If you hold the lead tightly your puppy is likely to respond by pulling against the leash
- If your puppy is surging ahead re-gain his attention by calling him back and give him praise and a treat. Then slowly move forward again
- Moving forward is a reward in itself
- Intermittently treat your puppy when they are walking close to you
- If your puppy is reluctant to move forward with the lead on, use lots of encouragement and a treat to encourage him forward. Give your puppy praise and reward him with the treat as he moves forward.



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