

How to Improve Your Puppy's Walking Skills

Here are some things that are fun and help your dog pay attention. They're best to do after your dog understands how to 'walk on a leash'.

Tools: Puppy, comfortable leash, collar (pinch, choke, martingale), a reward (treat or a toy)

Activity #1

As you're walking, call your dog's name and then say, "Come!" Immediately, start walking backwards. Your dog should turn around and walk or run happily towards you. While you're backing up, gather up the leash as your dog gets closer to you. Let your dog catch up to you and praise him.

Activity #2

During your walk, gently turn around and go the opposite direction calling your dog so he goes with you. You will now be walking in the opposite direction, both going the same way. You can do this many times so he learns to go wherever you go.

Activity #3

While walking, make unexpected left turns, right turns, and/or zigzags. Praise your dog.

Activity #4

While walking, go fast, slow, and then back to normal pace. All of these things not only make walking fun, but keeps the dog's attention on you.