



The Mannerly Dog

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Training Tip Sheet: Leash-Training for Puppies

1. Start your puppy off right with leash training so he walks nicely as a grown-up dog. He won't outgrow bad habits created in puppyhood.
2. If you don't pull on the leash, your puppy won't pull on the leash.
3. If you don't need to train your puppy to heel perfectly, just reward when the leash is loose; if the leash is loose, give her a treat and move forward; if it's tight, stop and wait for it to be loose. Do your part to keep it loose.
4. The leash is there simply to keep your pup safe in case something spooks him; use your voice and your body language to control him, not the leash. Don't pull him around on the leash, and don't allow others to do so.
5. Reward your puppy with treats as he follows you or walks at your side around the house. He'll be wearing a leash while you're housetraining him, so you're training him in how you want him to walk with you.
6. When your puppy is playing off-leash with you, spend a minute giving him treats for taking just one step with you, either following or at your side.
 - a) The left side is traditional for walking your dog, but you can choose the right if you'd rather; be consistent either way.
 - b) The behavior of walking with you and following where you lead is the same whether the puppy is off-leash or on.
7. When the puppy is on a leash, find a place for your hand to rest so you are not tempted to pull or try to control the puppy with the leash. While holding the leash, either hook your thumb in your belt loop or pocket, or place your hand on your belly and keep it there. If the puppy pulls, stand still until he turns to look at you or comes closer so the leash is loose; reward him with a treat and move forward a step.
8. Practice walking together in the yard; relax and wander around.
 - a) If the pup wants to go and sniff something while on leash, go with him - just require the leash to remain loose.
 - b) If he pulls, stop short of where he wants to go - even take a step away from it - until he loosens the leash.
 - c) If he looks back at you, call him happily to you and walk together to where you were going. Get there as partners instead of him pulling you. Rewarding one step of leash-walking will build into a long walk.
 - d) Pretend you want to go look at something and encourage the pup to come along while you take steps toward it. When he's walking with you, give him a treat. If he looks up at you, give him a treat - always with the leash loose.