



PULLING ON LEAD !

WHY OH WHY ...?

Well...the short answer is - because we let them ! If your dog has ever pulled you on lead and you have kept walking, you are inadvertently rewarding the pulling - oops ! This creates what we call reinforcement history and of course your dog continues to pull. It only takes once...

Has your dog ever pulled on lead to:

- Receive pats?
- Get to other dogs ?
- Go out the front door?
- Sniff or find a place to pee?

All the above creates *reinforcement history*. Reinforcement strengthens a behaviour. Therefore your dog is convinced pulling on lead is a pretty darn great thing to do. So many great things happen when they pull on lead - WOO HOO !

DONT DESPAIR ...

With patience, you can train your dog to walk politely on lead ! There are a variety of ways to teach LOOSE LEAD WALKING but no matter which way you choose you need to follow some basic tips when training :

- STOP when your dog pulls. ALWAYS.
- Start training in a NEUTRAL environment with no distractions.
- Understand what motivates your dog so you can use REWARDS that are fun !
- Train for SHORT periods of time only. 10 minute sessions. Add some play too !
- ENGAGEMENT IS everything. If your dog wont pay attention to you outside your house, you will need to spend some time building engagement FIRST !
- Be prepared to say NO to anyone who wants to interact with your dog when they are pulling on lead !
- Reward regularly to strengthen the behaviour you want.
- Understand REINFORCERS come in many forms - food, play, sniffing, continuing to walk, pats, verbal praise and more !
- If your dog has a lack of IMPULSE CONTROL , you will need to work on this too !

CANT I JUST USE A TOOL TO STOP THE PULLING ?

There are a variety of tools on the market to assist with walking on lead. Some more appropriate than others...but all are *tools only* and true LOOSE LEAD WALKING comes via training. If unsure, consult with your breeder or a qualified trainer.