



We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Issue 49

Living With Dogs: 5 Training Tips for Easier Walks

Use the best equipment. Walks should be enjoyable and pain-free, for you and your dog. Use humane no-pull equipment that employs natural counter-balance approaches to discourage pulling, without use of pain or risk of tracheal damage. There are many choices on the market. Ask a positive-reinforcement trainer to help you find the option best suited to your dog's body and snout shape, and her pulling behaviour and intensity.

Walk aware. Be on the lookout for cats, birds, small animals, other dogs, and toddlers who could get knocked over by a high-energy pooch. Ask for your dog's attention, cross the street, or wait out of sight behind a parked car if needed.

Walk prepared. Carry treats or a favourite toy to reward pleasing manners like sitting at kerbs, not barking at other dogs, not chasing birds, polite greeting of friendly humans, and loose-leash walking. Any behaviour you reinforce is going to happen more often. In other words: If you like it, reward it.



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Dog quotes

“Some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses.”

- Elizabeth Taylor

cont.

... easier walks

Walk with enrichment. If your dog’s workout regiment amounts to a stroll around the block twice a day, surplus energy and under-stimulation may make it tough for her to behave when you take her out and about. The remedy? Amp it up. Interact and engage with her on the walk. Explore new places, let her sniff, and make use of the environment for appropriate games like weaving and parkour. The more appropriate enrichment your dog gets, the more calm and attentive she’ll be.

Get help. If your dog is very challenging to walk, consider hiring a trainer to help you – or, check out the training game on loose-leash walking at cheerfuldogsstore.com. Your walks, too, can be a picture of interspecies harmony.



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Healthy Dog: Signs of Poisoning

Every year, hundreds of thousands of dogs suffer from some form of poisoning – and the culprits in the vast majority of cases are common household and garden products. Drugs such as cold and flu preparations, painkillers, and antidepressants; insecticides and rodent bait; plants like sago palms and azaleas; cleaning agents like bleach, detergent, and disinfectant; and outdoor toxins like fertilizers.

Always keep such hazards in locked cabinets or on high shelves, well out of reach of your dog. Also be aware that not all symptoms of poisoning occur shortly after ingestion; some can take 18 to 36 hours to appear.

Look out for: salivation, vomiting or diarrhoea, uncoordinated gait, seizures, muscle twitching, weakness, nose bleeds, rectal bleeding, and excessive thirst.

If your dog has ingested poison, bring a sample of the material with you to the vet if you can. To learn more, visit <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-household-dangers-must-i-protect-my-pet-from/>



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