



HAPPY DOG INSTITUTE'S ONLINE PUPPY CLASS: OUTSIDE STROLL

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SETTING THE SCENE: OUTSIDE STROLL

- Use outings as social events and an opportunity for positive exposure to new things
- Don't rely on neighborhood strolls as sufficient physical and mental exercise
- Run your dogs before you walk your dogs
- Go slow with younger puppies reluctant tolerate leash, etc.
- Go slow in general – short and sweet is better than long and overwhelming





DESENSITIZING PUPPY TO THE LEASH

Practice putting puppy's collar, leash and/or harness on frequently, for short periods of time.

- Help the puppy get used to the feeling of these items before experiencing any tension on them with the leash
- Add some treats to ease the experience

Once puppy is getting used to the feel of the individual items, attach the leash and start teaching her to follow you.

- Use treats to lure them along
- Don't work on this in overwhelming or distracting environments until they're completely comfortable
- When you do add distractions or other stimulus, expect to start the process over

Remember to work at your puppy's level—don't ask her to tolerate the leash or harness for too long and remember that puppies can easily get overwhelmed.

Watch video via link in your homework portal on gear desensitization by Jean Donaldson



TEACHING PUPPY TO WALK ON A LEASH

Step One

Fill your bait bag and put your puppy on leash. You'll want to practice at first in a non-distracting environment.

Step Two

Walk briskly with your puppy on leash. If she goes to the end of the leash, change directions and keep walking at a brisk pace. When she comes near you on the side that you want her to walk on, use a cheerful voice to praise her. Whenever she gets into heel position or puts slack in the leash, treat. You can also treat for any eye contact.

Step Three

If after a couple minutes you do not find your puppy spending more time at your side or with a slack leash, either move to an even less distracting space or reward your puppy for being near you, even if she isn't in exactly the right spot. The point is to reward more often so that she stays interested and doesn't wander to the end of the leash looking for something else to do.

Please Note

When you do not have time to practice loose leash walking, be sure to have your puppy wear her anti pull harness so that her training is not undermined by being allowed to pull again.



VIDEO: LOOSE LEASH WALKING





SOCIALIZATION: MOVEMENT

Make sure your puppy is getting plenty of positive exposure to things that move, including skateboards, bikes, trucks, buses, joggers, etc.

Don't forget to incorporate both sight AND sound – the scraping of skateboards or the sound of traffic can be hard on dogs if not properly exposed!

Consider where you live. Do you need to seek out more novel movement and traffic experiences?

Certain breeds are more prone to movement sensitivity than others

Movement sensitivity can come from fear or instinct – or both.

View our video on socializing around novel stimulus in your homework portal.





WEEKLY CHALLENGE: OUTSIDE STROLL

Choose a place to walk according to your pup's level and your comfort. Answer the following questions before you go, thinking about what you learned from your class challenge experience:

- What strategies will you employ to help your puppy to walk nicely on leash?
- What strategies will you use when passing a stranger?
- What strategies will you use when passing other dogs?
- What will you do if your dog sees something yummy on the ground?
- How will you handle it if someone wants to meet your puppy?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE: OUTSIDE STROLL CONT'D

After your walk, ask yourself the following questions:

- How many people did your puppy meet?
- Did he greet them politely?
- Was your puppy comfortable with everything she saw and everyone she met?
- Did anything seem to startle her?
- How well did your puppy walk on leash?
- What did you learn, and what do you think you'll do differently next time?

Go do it again—every day if you can. It's great for both of you and consistent repetition will build good manners and a great relationship.