

# Loose Leash Walking

## Class Description

**\$80 / 4 Weeks / 1 Hour**

**Eligibility:** All ages and all breeds welcome.

**Drop-In:** NO

**Revolving Enrollment:** NO

### **What is the Loose Leash Walking class?**

This course is designed to teach you how to take control. We will arm you with the knowledge and hands on experience needed to successfully train your dog to walk politely and not pull while on leash. Leash pulling is one of the most common problem behaviors owners' deal with today. Dog owners with small dogs typically view pulling as manageable and just settle for a harness but keep in mind, over time leash pulling can manifest into more problematic behaviors like aggression or lead to serious health problems.

This course will cover six key elements to obtaining a loose leash while walking. You'll learn what type of equipment to use how to use it, along with specific training techniques and exercises to use while training.

Dogs that learn not to pull when on leash are a pleasure to take out and as a result, they enjoy exercise, freedom, socialization and much needed mental stimulation. This helps prevent both medical issues caused by lack of exercise and potential problem behaviors brought on due to boredom.

This class teaches polite leash walking using positive reinforcement and the least aversive techniques possible. Below is a breakdown on what you will learn each week.

**Week 1** – Working indoors we will discuss proper leash walking equipment, how to properly hold your leash like a pro, where to keep your treats and how to use a clicker (*Clickers are optional but highly recommended*). We will discuss realistic expectations for walking our dogs and how to set our dogs up for success. We'll teach you how dogs learn and perceive information to help you better understand the affects your actions have on your dog and why. Lastly we will work on exercises geared to help acquire the focus we need from our dogs and build value to being on our left side.

**Week 2** – Exercises this week involve teaching our dogs to follow hand gestures, verbal cues, give in to leash pressure instead of pulling against it and how to properly use a release cue. On top of all that we will review last week's exercises and test their focus skills. As a handler you will learn how to properly reinforce good behavior along with how and when to wean off using treats. You'll also learn how to teach your dog to be patient while being leashed, when getting out of the car and going through doors.

**Week 3** – Weather permitting, we will apply what we've learned the previous two weeks and practice as a group in the facilities parking lot. The biggest struggle with leash walking for most people is dealing with distractions; dogs tend to lack focus, aren't interested in our treats, bark in frustration, and pull or lunge towards another dog or person. It can be frustrating but there are many training techniques we can show you that will help you to overcome these difficult hurdles.

**Week 4** – As a group, we will walk approximately half a mile down a sidewalk and over grass terrain. This will give us ample opportunity to work with our dogs in a realistic setting. All the while your Trainer will be there to help you every step of the way. After our walk we will hydrate and have Q & A time.

### **What to bring to class?**

- 2 different types of food rewards. Be sure they are soft, pea sized treats. Avoid dry crumbly treats.
- A treat bag to carry treats in, waist apron or be sure to wear clothing with pockets.
- 6 ft. leash and a martingale, regular buckle or belt collar (*retractable leashes, choke chains and standard harnesses are not permitted*).
- If already using a training aid please feel free to **bring that in addition to your standard collar** (*e.g. no pull harness, head halter or properly fitted prong collar*)
- Travel size bed, rug or mat.
- Water bowl for keeping your dog hydrated and comfortable.
- Close toed shoes for safety (*Not optional*).
- A clicker (*optional*).