



## Pulling On The Lead

This is a very common problem because the behaviour is so rewarding for the dog.

Some dogs learn to walk on a loose lead in the training class, but as soon as they leave the training hall they drag their owners along the street. This is because they learn how to behave in certain situations and do not always transfer this to other circumstances, especially when there are lots of new and exciting sights and smells.

The remedy is to first teach your dog a command word such as **heel** or **close**. When your dog is by your side label this with your command word and praise your dog, e.g. **good heel**. You also need to look at your own behaviour, you have to give the dog a reason to want to walk next to you more than sniffing a lamppost etc. Lighten up with your dog, with the lead, be happy and try and keep his attention.

Rather than continuing to walk each time your dog pulls (and therefore rewarding the pulling) don't go anywhere. Just stand still and wait for the dog to slacken the lead.

Be patient, eventually the dog will stop pulling. Praise the dog when the leash is slack, use your command **good heel**, give the dog a treat and take one step. Just one step and wait because the dog will immediately surge forward as soon as you move. Wait again, it probably won't take as long this time.

Repeat until the dog comes to heel promptly, then try two steps, three steps, four etc. Before you know it the dog will be walking calmly on a lead. If your dog tightens the lead again, stop and wait for the dog to heel. Consistency is the key.

Choke collars will not stop the dog from pulling and can make matters worse. A head collar for larger or livelier dogs allows the owner to pull the dogs head towards them therefore making it considerably harder for the dog to maintain its pulling action.