



Loose Leash Walking Skills Summary

Teaching your puppy to walk nicely on leash is an ongoing process. It is something that you will need to keep practicing the entire time you are raising your puppy, and you will most likely work on it at each puppy class you attend.

Each stage has a range of exercises to try which can be found on the curriculum page of the PAWS website.

Don't get despondent if you are in a new environment and your puppy appears to have forgotten everything, just be patient and go back to a few of the exercises in a previous stage so you can both be successful!

Phase 1 Beginners

- Follow Me Off Leash
- Puppy Walks and Walks to Nowhere On Leash in the Home
- Puppy Walks and Walks to Nowhere Outside the Home
- 300 Peck Game

Phase 2 Improvers

- Short Puppy Walks and Walks to Nowhere Away From Home
- Introducing Sniff Walks
- Encouraging Check-ins and Working Towards Straight Line Travel
- Do the Opposite Game

Phase 3 More Challenging

- Proofing & Generalization
- Stopping & U-Turns - Getting More Engagement on the Leash
- Backing Up on Leash
- Leash Walking With Distractions

Setting Up For Success

- Don't be afraid to go back a stage or two if you need to. Sometimes our puppies need a refresher for a variety of reasons like a change of environment, developmental stages, or you or they are just having a bad day!
- You are not aiming for competition-level obedience perfection! You are setting good foundations for your foster puppy's Assistance Dog journey.
- Do not let your puppy have success in pulling. This means if they pull, do not follow them!
- Always aim to be the most exciting thing to your puppy in whatever environment you are in.
- If it's all going horribly wrong during a training session, either go back a stage or two, or use the Emergency Lure for a quick exit.
- If your puppy is persistent in trying to pull and their size and strength is becoming more than you can handle, talk to your Foster Puppy Club Leader about the possibility of introducing other equipment such as a Gentle Leader or harness.