

Loose Lead Walking

Tips for everyday walking.

Amy Millward Dog Training



1. Getting your dog to look at you.

Everywhere you go, bring some tasty treats and stop for a minute or two to do this exercise. Call your dog's name, as soon as he looks at you praise and then give a treat. Do this as much as you can and when he is getting good try just stopping and saying nothing. As soon as he looks, praise then give him a treat.

2. Pay attention on walks.

While walking your dog, stop without saying anything to your dog and don't move until he looks at you. As soon as he looks at you praise and continue walking. Be patient, it may take a while.

3. No Lead!

With small treats ready in your hand walk around your house/garden with your dog off lead. Try not to say too much to your dog other than praising when they are looking at you. Every time your dog walks by your side for a step or two, say 'Yes' then immediately

give a treat. Keep walking even if your dog stops to sniff. Walk the opposite way if your dog goes to walk ahead of you. You will be praising and treating for every couple of steps your dog walks next to you.

4. On Lead Walking

With your dog on a LOOSE lead, walk until your dog starts to pull and stop IMMEDIATELY when you feel them put pressure on the lead. Don't move until they look at you then encourage them back to your side. Carry on walking once they have looked and are back at your side, reward with a 'Yes' and treat every few steps they walk without pulling.

Alternatively, walk until you see your dog move slightly ahead of you, say "this way" and immediately change direction. Another good exercise to practice in open areas is to change the direction you're heading every 5 steps, this way your dog will pay more attention as they will never know which way you are going next.