



Heelwork – Teaching your dog to walk at your side

This is very easy to teach but takes a lot of time and effort.
You must always be consistent in what you do and how you do it.

First – encourage your dog to sit by your side –PRAISE and TREAT when they do.

Second – use your command- e.g Heel, Let's go, etc. At the same time encourage your dog to walk forward a couple of steps BY YOUR SIDE – stop, praise and treat!

Third - repeat the above exercise for a few times making sure you only take a few steps then praise and treat.

DO NOT TRY TO GO TOO FAR TOO QUICKLY!

Next time you practise, repeat what you did last time then encourage a few more steps making sure your dog is at your side and remembering to Praise and Treat. Repeat a few times then finish.

Each time you practise try to add on a few more steps before praising and treating.

Brief tips on what to remember.

1. Everything should be done in stages, especially with young dogs. Start off with practicing your walking skills around the house and in the garden. Always reward your dog verbally when it's walking well.
2. Then progress to the street and set yourself goals, to the lamppost and back then further and further and further.
3. Always keep your dogs lead loose at your side whenever the dog is walking well
4. If the dog attempts to pull you, you must anticipate this and pull back on the lead and slacken the lead again but quickly. This acts as an interruption.
5. If the dog continues to pull you must change direction quickly. Imagine you're turning around a cone and you have to keep close to it when you turn. The change of direction should include using the dog's name and repeating your command then use a quick pull and slacken of the lead. By doing this your dog will learn that you are in control of the walk.
6. Change of pace. When the dog is walking well with a loose lead start changing your pace. This will keep the dogs focus and get them thinking. Quick pace, normal pace and slow pace. Make it fun for the dog by changing pace often and remembering to praise when they are walking well.