

INTRODUCTION TO A LEAD

TOOLS



What do I need?
A training lead and some tasty treats

Some puppies can get a bit worried or panic when a lead is first put on them. When they feel tension or restraint they can panic and the normal natural reaction is to pull away or against the tension.

This is called opposition reflex or thigmotaxis.

You can with rewards change how your puppy reacts and also feels on an emotional level about tension of a lead. This exercise is a great first learning for a puppy as to what to do on lead, which is move into tension not against it.



Part Two - Add Tension and Movement

Part One - Attach the lead

STEP 1

Drop some treats on the floor.

STEP 2

While your puppy is eating the treat, attach the lead to the collar or harness.

STEP 3

Just leave the lead on the floor.

STEP 4

Lure your puppy around with a treat to distract it from the lead.

STEP 1

Pick up the lead.

STEP 2

Add a little tension very gently then feed a treat.

You are making an association of something nice (the treat) with this new feeling. The key here is to be gentle so not to trigger the natural opposition reflex into action.

STEP 3

Increase the tension gradually making sure your puppy is comfortable about it.

STEP 4

If you notice your puppy move into the tension, instead of away from it, mark with a verbal 'Good'

STEP 5

Feed your puppy a treat.

STEP 6

See if your puppy will start to move into the tension, mark and reward.



TROUBLE SHOOTING PART TWO

If you find your puppy is not comfortable or reluctant to move, go back to step two and do more repetitions at this level then try step three again.

