



EMERGENCY U-TURN

Even with the best of foundations, sometimes things happen. Your spaniel sees a bird who needs flushing, and races to the end of her leash. Your reactive dog sees a canine intruder from two blocks away, and rushes forward to sound a warning. Your dog has temporarily misplaced awareness of you, so you need to get back on the radar.

Two simple techniques can help. As with most training, it is best to practice these with your dog before you find yourself in the emergency situation.

U-TURN

- When your dog's attention is focused elsewhere, take a smelly, tasty, treat and place it at their nose, for them to sniff and follow
- Using the food lure, slowly guide your dog's nose back toward you so that she makes a U-Turn
- Continue to move backwards with the treat guiding by the nose, then turn and walk side by-side together
- Now feed the treat, or toss it ahead a little bit to keep your dog moving with you

WALK UP THE LEASH

If your dog is six feet ahead of you, warding off an intruder or stalking its prey at the other end of a tight leash, it's unlikely that you'll be able to do a U-Turn, or have any other influence for that matter. You need to place yourself by your dog's shoulder or head first. If you simply walk forward, though, your dog will continue to pull forward. If you try pulling back on the leash it will prompt your dog to pull harder (a physical reflex—not the “stubbornness” so often attributed, incorrectly, to our dogs). You need to “walk up the leash”.

- Walk toward your dog without releasing the pressure that he has put on the leash
- As you approach him, gather up the leash, hand over hand, so that you neither release nor add to the pressure on the leash
- Once you arrive at your dog's shoulder it's likely that he will look around as if to say “Oh! I'd forgotten you were back there!”
- Perform a U-Turn, and move away from whatever had caught his attention, using food lures to keep him connected as you move away together

Emergency Leash Techniques

THAT DON'T PUT PRESSURE ON YOUR DOG

Practice these techniques a couple of times per walk when your dog is relaxed and having fun, before trying it when there are distractions or temptations.

U-Turns

Use a wonderfully tasty treat and place it at the dog's nose to lure him around from the temptation and back to you. You could do it two ways.



1. when you see the need to GET AWAY,



2. place treat at your dog's nose to get his/her attention



3. Call your dog and TURN AROUND TOGETHER in a tight arc*

OR



3. Call your dog and BACK UP*



4. Feed your dog

* stay close to your dog

Walk Up The Leash

If your dog is pulling toward some awesome temptation, or having a reactive moment, use this to get next to your dog so as to have some influence.



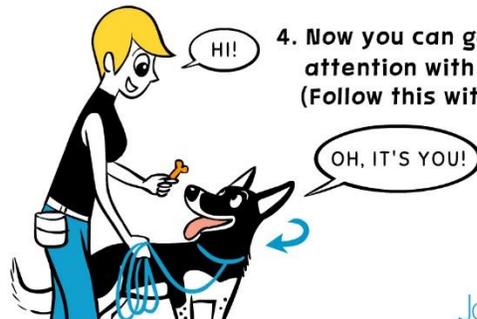
1. when your dog is at the end of the leash,



2. step forward and collect the leash hand-over-hand without adding pressure...



3. ...until you reach your dog's shoulder/head.



4. Now you can get your dog's attention with no pulling. (Follow this with a U-Turn)