



# Beginner Class Three

## Teaching Your Dog “Lets Go”

Walking on a relaxed leash does not mean that your dog is walking right alongside you. This is a casual leash walk which means both you and your dog can stroll along in comfort. With these techniques, our goal is for the leash to be relaxed, not pulled tight. In an ideal world, the leash should form a shape similar to “J” with lots of slack in the leash. For casual training, it is not a requirement, only that your dog isn’t yanking your arm out of the socket! There are two different methods for teaching your dog how to walk on a relaxed leash:

### Method #1 – Tree Roots

*(This method is easier on the owner, but takes a little longer for the dog to understand)*

- Attach your leash to your dog’s collar or harness
- When the leash is relaxed and your dog is not pulling, use your clicker and give your dog a treat
- **As soon as your dog pulls** to the end of the leash, plant your feet firmly and stand still, ignoring your dog
- Wait for your dog to get bored and give some slack or if they sit down. Once that happens, use your clicker and give your dog a treat
- When the leash is relaxed, begin walking again
- If your dog runs to the end of the leash, **stop moving and stand still**, ignoring your dog until they return slack to the leash. Repeat the use of the clicker and give him a treat every time he returns to you

### Method #2 – Quick Turn

*(This method is easier for the dog to understand but can make the owner dizzy)*

- Attach your leash to your dog’s collar or harness
- **As soon as your dog pulls** to the end of the leash, quickly turn around and start walking swiftly the opposite direction
- While your dog is walking to catch up to you, use your clicker and praise the relaxed leash
- As soon as your dog pulls to the end of the leash, repeat your turn and swift walk in the opposite direction
- When your dog stops pulling, click and praise, walking at a better pace for both of you

A few notes about walking your dog:

- **Do not pull back on the leash**, as this will encourage your dog to pull against you
- **Make sure that you are praising and speaking to your dog when they are walking correctly.** One of the biggest mistakes owners make is not praising when their dog is doing things correctly.
- Use the command “Let’s Go” to encourage your dog when walking so they don’t get it confused with other commands.
- **Make sure you are holding the leash correctly!** Thumb through the loop, not your entire wrist.

## **Teaching Your Dog To Sit Politely For Petting**

When you are out walking your dog and a stranger approaches you, asking to pet them, does your dog jump all over the person? Sitting for petting teaches your dog that if they want any sort of attention, they must be sitting politely to get it. There are several steps for getting your dog to sit politely:

- Ask a family member or friend to assist with training. Your assistant **MUST** be someone your dog likes and wants to greet. **Your dog should never be forced to greet someone who scares him.**
- Give your dog the "sit" command.
- The greeter approaches you and your dog. If your dog stands up, the greeter immediately turns and walks away
- Ask your dog to "sit," and have the greeter approach again.
- Keep repeating until your dog remains seated as the greeter approaches.
- If your dog does remain seated, the greeter can give your dog a treat as a reward and begin petting them
- **As soon as your dog stands up**, tell the greeter to pull away from your dog and stop petting them
- When you encounter someone while out walking your dog, you must manage the situation and train your dog at the same time

Stop the person from approaching by telling him you don't want your dog to jump on him.

- Hand the person a treat.
- Ask your dog to "sit."
- Tell the person he can pet your dog and give him the treat as long as your dog remains seated

Some people will tell you they don't mind if your dog jumps on them, especially if your dog is small and fluffy or a puppy. But you should mind. **Remember you need to be consistent in training. If you don't want your dog to jump on people, stick to your training and don't make exceptions.** An easy way to help people understand is to let them know that you're trying to teach your dog manners and **do not allow them to pet your dog unless the dog is sitting.**

A note about this behavior:

- Some dogs get overly excited when people are approaching. If this is the case, tell your greeter to approach slowly, with their head turned to the side so they are not looking directly at your dog. Additionally, you can ask your greeter to approach your dog quietly.