



**10 WAYS YOU CAN  
MAKE WALKING  
YOUR DOGS A FUN  
EXPERIENCE FOR  
EVERYONE**



**The  
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If you are the proud parent of two or more fur-babies, then you most likely know the frustrations of walking multiple dogs with multiple leashes, and chances are you'll appreciate this practical advice.

Unless you are an experienced dog trainer, a skilled dog walker, or don't mind continually stopping to untangle your dogs' leashes, you may think it's impossible to walk more than one dog with ease. With time and patience, you can master this skill and learn to have fun walking multiple dogs. Don't forget to look after yourself. Walking multiple dogs should be a fun experience!



### **1. *Safety First***

There are nearly 44 million households with more than one dog, according to a 2012 survey conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association. With our busy lifestyles, it's easy to want to take shortcuts or avoid frustrations by walking each dog individually, but this isn't always practical and could be dangerous for you and your pups.

Consider your capabilities, such as fitness level. For instance, a 100-pound person, walking two 150-pound dogs, could quickly lose control if the dogs are startled or distracted. The difference in weight between human and canines means that the dogs' combined weight could equal disaster.

## ***2. Train Yourself, And Then Train Your Dogs***

It is crucial that you are the leader of your pack. Cliché, I know. Have you ever heard the advice: it is not recommended to allow your dogs to walk ahead of you? Great advice if you are only walking one or two easily controllable dogs; However, the more dogs on your walkies increases the difficulties you may face, which means training is essential.

Walking one dog can be a joyful experience, but only 40% of U.S. homes understand the frustrations of walking two or more dogs. There is always the potential your dogs could turn the tables and take you for a walk. Teach them not to pull on their leashes and reward them with a treat to reinforce good behavior.

## ***3. The Pack Mentality***

If your dogs live together, then they most likely have an established hierarchy in place. Depending on how many dogs you are walking, how familiar they are with one another, and their personalities, it may be wise group them. For example, a nervous dog may not do well in a large pack, but if you walked him with a confident dog, then everyone is happy. It may mean two or more daily walks, and that's okay.

If you are lucky, your pack of pups may move as a herd, which could keep the wanders together. In addition, younger canines may naturally follow a maturer dog's example, but if that doesn't happen, you could try holding the more rambunctious fur-babies in your dominant hand and the others in your less dominant hand, if you don't mind using both hands.

## ***4. Small Dogs Versus Large Dogs***

Dogs of any size, activity level, personality, or age (S.A.L.A.P.) can be walked together in time. Assess each dogs' personality individually and put the needs of the least physically fit dog first, or the one with the shortest legs versus the one with the longer stride.

Worst case, you may need to walk more rambunctious pups separate from more mature dogs. If this isn't possible and you must walk all of your dogs together, then put the needs of the most vulnerable fur-babies first. This way, everyone wins because everybody gets to go for a walk and spend time with their favorite human, you.

### **5. *Eliminate Competitive Behaviors***

It is essential to eliminate competitive behaviors between your dogs. Generally, this comes down to a pulling match to establish who the pack leader is, but you've already established that's you, right?



Whatever issue creates the competitive behaviors in your pack, be sure to correct it as soon as you observe the discord. The best way to deal with this is to stop immediately and refuse to continue until all dogs have calmed down and are focused on you.

### **6. *If You're Tense, Then Everyone's Tense***

When I rescued my first dog, I signed us up for obedience school because we both needed appropriate training. One of the first things I learned is not to hold my dog's leash too tightly because my new puppy could sense my nervousness and tension through how I held his leash. Crazy, right?

Relax. Dogs are sensitive creatures. They can pick up on your emotions and easily mimic them. Make sure you are projecting reassuring vibes for your fur-babies. Hold your dogs' leashes in a way that is comfortable for all of you. Again, it's tricky, I know. All you can do is continue to train yourself and your dogs until you master this essential skill.

### **7. *Be Prepared For Walkies***

If you want to start on the right paw (;-)), then have the appropriate gear for walkies. Properly fitted collars and leashes for each dog is a must. Collars shouldn't be too tight or too loose. Always avoid choker collars. Harnesses work so much better.

Retractable leashes are suitable for walking one dog, but multiple dogs are different. The thin cord can quickly wrap around anything that happens to get in the way, making it hard to untangle. Also, it can become near impossible to utilize the primary function of the retractable leashes due to twisted handles.

Couplers allow you to attach multiple dogs to a single leash and can work wonderfully if your pups are well trained, or you don't mind twisted or tangled leashes. One benefit to using couplers is that it frees one of your hands, which always comes in handy and because of this, couplers are our second choice for walking multiple dogs.

### ***8. The Dreaded Tangled Leashes***

Even well-trained dogs tend to find themselves entangled as their natural proclivity to zigzag while jockeying for position, and the constant distraction of the three S's: sights, sounds, smells don't help.

How many times have you found yourself attempting to pirouette yourself out of tangled leashes without tripping while maneuvering and transferring leashes around you and other dogs? Not fun and potentially dangerous.

Some experts say ignore the tangles and keep walking, but that isn't always practical or safe advice for your pups or you. No matter how well-behaved your fur-babies are, tangled leashes are an inescapable fact when walking a pack of dogs. Fortunately, we no longer have this issue when walking our rescues.

### ***9. The Essentials***

Don't forget to bring doggy bags for the packages your pups will most likely drop along the way. There are several reasons to clean up after your dogs. Firstly, no one wants to clean up after your dogs or worse, unknowingly step in your dogs' deposits. Secondly, dog waste can spread diseases. Thirdly, it's your responsibility.

Also, don't forget to bring a bottle of water and a bowl for your pups to drink and remember to offer water at regular intervals, especially on hot and humid days. Don't forget water for yourself!

### **10. *Don't Rush***

As with any training, don't rush leash training your dogs. They should gradually be trained to walk for different lengths of time and varied routes, so they are as ready for a 15-minute walk as a 30minute walk, or a quiet walk through a park versus a hectic walk past a busy highway.

Practice walking them for different lengths of time and through different areas until your dogs are comfortable with any situation as a pack and with you confidently leading them. Then everyone can focus on enjoying walkies together.

### ***The Takeaway***

Walking multiple dogs can be a fun experience for all involved, but it will take a lot of work or a proper device to make sure that your pups are obedient and you are confident leading your pack, especially if your cat joins you. ;-)



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