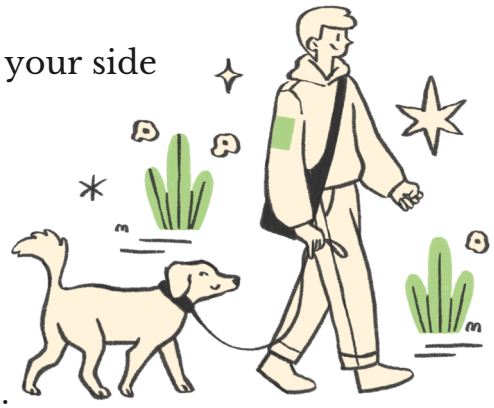
Loose Lead Walking

What exactly is loose lead walking?

- Engagement with your dog on a leash
- Slack on the lead for majority of the walk
- Option to progress to a 'heel' walk - dog walks on your side



Why do we want loose lead walking?

- More enjoyable walk for handler and dog
- No pressure on handlers' nor dog's joints
- Safe practice, preparation for recall training

How can we teach loose lead walking?

- There are SO many ways to teach loose lead walking
- Here are a few exercise to practice first in your home and then on your walk
- It is best to start in quieter enivronments to help build's your dog's skill first
- Ensure to use a well fitted harness (preferably y-shaped)
- 2 leads, 1 connected to back clip and 1 connect to front clip

*Required: Marker Trained

1. **<u>Wait for Engagement BEFORE leaving home</u>**
   - It is important to start your walk the way you want it to go.
   - If you dog goes bananas when you pick up the harness, the harness goes away until they are calm.
   - Wait for engagement such as eye contact, a sit, nose touch before leaving the house, ensuring to mark behaviour and reward.
   - Mark and reward with food on the floor to encourage sniffing.

2. **<u>Teach your dog what leash presssure means</u>**
   - Using your harness and lead, when your dog reaches the end of the lead, hold tension on the lead, no jerks or movements, steady tension.
   - Say your cue to recall the dog to you such as "Freddie come!".
   - As soon as you see movement in lead or your dog's attention towards you, release tension, mark and reward with food at your feet.
   - Practice this on your walk, when your dog pulls, stop, use this, turn around and take a few steps, wait for engagement and coutinue your walk.

3. **<u>Reward Check Ins</u>**
   - When your dog turns to look at your on your walk or even your general direction, mark and reward with food at your feet.
   - Check in could look like eye contact, turn to face you, offering you a sit.
   - Option - Move with your dog in figure out pattern to practice engagement.

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