**Connected Walking**

**As taught by Kay Laurence clicker trainer from England**

**and found in Every Dog Every Day book and DVD (LearningAboutDogs.com).** A way for you and your dog to connect and engage in a cooperative activity. It starts by walking on leash and progresses to a long line, a dragged long line, and then off leash, maintaining the connection between dog and handler.

**Using a 6 foot lead and a buckle collar or harness, you will walk with your dog in a relatively quiet place where your dog can safely walk on a loose leash.**  Your focus is on your dog and the path that the two of you are converging on. You are not taking your dog for a walk, he is not taking you for a walk, you are walking together. You are the navigator, but your dog does get to “sniff the roses” within limits.

He can go to the end of the leash, but not pull you along. If he pulls to the end of the leash, stop**. IF HE PULLS TO THE END OF THE LEASH, STOP**. Hold the leash firmly and turn your shoulders back to the path you are taking (if he pulls ahead, change your path) and wait. When the dog joins up with you, you can mark (with a click or a verbal marker such as "Yes!") and treat, or just praise and move on together.

You need to be vigilant for stuff on the path. Don’t let dog eat weird stuff, he can sniff while you wait as above, your shoulders facing the path direction.

Sometimes stop and “sniff the roses” yourself.

Sometimes ask for a simple behavior like responding to name with eye contact or “sit” or a hand target. You can mark and treat those, or praise and move on.

After your dog gets good on a 6 foot lead, try this on a long line in a park.

Can your dog converge on a path with you while a greater distance away?

**This is a long term project that will pay off with connection to you.**