

LOTC Beginning Obedience

Walking on Leash

Picture what an enjoyable walk with your dog looks like? What is important to you? Does it include your dog staying nearby on a loose leash? Then read on....

Unfortunately most of us *inadvertently train our dogs to pull*.

When we picture sharing our lives with a dog, taking a leisurely walk is often a big part of that picture. It is often one of the first activities we want to do with our new family member. We put on that new collar and leash and head out the door! Only to find that our new friend is also excited about exploring their new neighborhood. So excited that he ends up at the end of the leash, excitedly pulling us toward each new smell.

Fact: **Dogs do what works**

If pulling will get your dog from point A to point B, why should he try anything different? You are basically telling your dog this is the way to move forward.

We want them to learn:

Pulling = No Forward Movement

Staying near us is fun and rewarding

Our first step is teaching our dogs being near us on a slack leash is the best place to be. *Start marking & rewarding your dog every time he is within a two foot radius of your left side.*

Tip: Consider using an extra special treat that your dog only gets when the leash is slack. Don't use it to reward any other behavior.

Our second step is to stop rewarding a tight leash by "becoming a tree". *Stop walking every time the leash becomes tight.* You may want to stop taking walks during the initial training period and use an alternative form of exercise. If you do continue walking your dog, focus on the quality of the walk not the quantity of walking.

We will cover the remaining steps in class. Feel free to visit our website and view the loose leash walking videos as a preview. They can be found at:

www.lomitadogtraining.org/resources/

Scroll down to BEGINNING Tuesday PM Class