



## Pulling on leash

“Four on the Floor” The goal is to only give attention and interaction when a dog’s feet are on the floor. With consistency, the dog will learn that keeping all four paws on the floor will bring good things! Do NOT scold or correct the dog for jumping! Simply turn away and withdraw your attention. As soon as feet are on the floor, turn to him and smother him with attention.

- Start right at the door. If he is jumping on the door, wait until his feet are on the ground before opening the door. If he then jumps again wait until he is on the ground. You can speed this up by kneeling at the door and holding the leash low so that to get it on his head, his feet have to be on the floor.
- Once walking, if he jumps on you, simply turn your back to him, stand still, and wait until feet are on the floor. Once they are on the floor, turn to him and praise, then continue walking.
- Once outside, if he jumps on you, turn your back, cross your arms over chest, and wait for feet on ground. Once they are on the floor, turn to him and praise, then continue walking.

Loose lead walking - It is very unpleasant to be dragged on a walk. The goal is to only walk when the lead is loose. No corrections are necessary with these methods.

- Be a Tree - when the leash becomes tight, simply stop walking and wait until the dog moves so the leash becomes loose again. Then start walking again. Every time the leash becomes tight, stop walking and wait. This can seemingly take forever, like 10 stops in a 5 minute walk, but dogs learn the routine quickly!
- Turn Around - If a dog has a long history of pulling then “Be a Tree” is not enough. When the leash gets tight, casually and smoothly turn around and walk in the opposite direction. The goal is not to surprise or choke him by suddenly charging off in a different direction, rather the message should be: “Oh, sorry, we don’t get to go that way when you pull.”
- Reinforcing loose lead walking - If he has walked awhile without pulling, as soon as you get to a place where it is safe, walk to a bush and let him sniff, or take him to a play yard to be off the leash. Do not let him drag you to the bush or play yard. After a few seconds of sniffing, go back to walking calmly and steadily forward.



We recommend the Gentle Leader for dogs that are still learning leash manners. We sell these at LCHS, and our dog trainer, Gayle Mulvey, highly recommends their (proper) use. It eliminates pulling, lunging, jumping and other unwanted behaviors and is NOT a muzzle. Unlike traditional collars, the Gentle Leader places pressure on the back of the neck rather than the delicate front of the throat, preventing choking and coughing. Meanwhile, the nose loop allows you to gently direct your dog’s head in the direction you wish to go. It all adds up to more control for you, and a more comfortable and enjoyable walk for you both.

If you need additional assistance, Gayle has a variety of dog obedience classes at LCHS that address the issue of leash pulling (among many others)! Her classes are \$85 for 6 weeks.