



Walk at Side

STRONG STARTS
FOUNDATIONS

CUE: “with me” and pat leg

GOAL

Dog walks near your side paying attention to you. Dog comes toward you when the leash is tight.

USES FOR WITH ME

- Use ‘with me’ on a walk to help your dog past distractions (not for the whole walk).
- Loose leash walking is a combination of a lot of skills.

REMINDERS:

- Learning to walk nicely takes a lot of time and practice.
- Use especially good treats when you are teaching your puppy something hard (chicken, hot dog, cheese).

PRACTICE

Loose Leash Walking (L.L.W.):

- Your dog should walk without pulling while you hold the end of your leash.
- Using a longer leash can make L.L.W. easier.
- If your dog pulls, stop moving. Wait for your dog to put slack on the leash or look at you.
- Using a head collar or front clip harness can prevent pulling on the leash.

With Me:

Step 1. Get the behavior

- Start training this skill indoors.
- Start walking. Click and treat as your puppy gets to your side.
- Use a nose target if your puppy needs help.

Step 2. Shape the behavior

- Get your dog next to you, then take a step forward, click and treat.
- Step forward, stop, then click and treat.
- Practice turning and add steps slowly.

Step 3. Cue the behavior.

- Once your dog is staying by your side while you move, you can start saying ‘with me,’ when you start walking.

Step 4. Generalize the Behavior.

- Practice this in different rooms, your back yard, your front yard, and the street.
- Practice walking past food or toys on the ground.
- Use this for shorter periods when you encounter distractions on a walk (dogs, people, trash, etc.).