

Lead problems

What may appear to be a straight forward exercise of putting a lead on and off can be made very difficult with an over exuberant dog. You will be pleased to know that this scene is repeated in hundreds of houses across the country.

The lead for many pet owners is usually kept out of the way and only put on before walks, which is only to be expected. But to your dog his behaviour of jumping and leaping around is rewarded because the walk always follows. Practice placing the lead on and off in a variety of rooms around the home, without the following expectation of a walk. The reward of the walk itself should only ensue when he is quiet. Try changing your routine before walks, for example if you presently place on your shoes, coat and then get the lead, your dog already knows a walk is imminent and is becoming excited therefore trying to control him becomes harder each time. Instead try the task of placing the lead on and off a dozen times before a walk. This is repetitive and can have a calming effect. Always keep your lead lying around the house, occasionally picking it up when moving from room to room, which will reduce your dogs expectation of a walk every time the lead is picked up. There is no substitute for practice and will eventually make the prospect of walks much more enjoyable for you and your dog.

However, when eventually on the walk, some dogs have a tendency to grab and hold the lead in their mouths whilst walking
There are a variety of reasons why a dog will bite their lead in this way. Sometimes this is due to the excitement of the walk to the park or maybe because they are frustrated that they are being restricted. Webbing or leather leads are highly chewable, but chain leads are very discouraging for dogs that chew leads. Equally you may find that by wiping your lead in either lemon juice or Tabasco sauce, or you may want to try spraying a chew deterrent on your lead this will discourage the behaviour. If it is just a fact that your dog likes carrying things then why not give him either a toy to hold, or make him earn his biscuits and get him to carry your copy of the newspaper back home from the newsagents.