



Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

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www.dogshomesoftas.com.au

Love this dogshome

Canine Connections

Walking your Dog on a Loose Lead



For the safety of dogs and the general public, local council regulations stipulate that dogs must be kept on a lead when being walked on footpaths or road side areas.

The dog that pulls and strains on the lead, dragging their owner along behind is not an uncommon sight but there are ways to make walking the dog a whole lot more relaxing.

Teaching your dog to walk on a loose lead begins with your dog being off lead in the backyard where there are less distractions. Teaching is most effective if you can manage several short sessions each day as opposed to one long session.

Use food treats which the dog will find highly motivating such as small pieces of cheese, sausage or dried liver treats. Holding a treat in your hand as a lure, tempt the dog to your side, introduce a command such as 'let's go' or 'heel' and walk a few short steps. If the dog has stayed with you, praise and give the food treat immediately. Continue for a few minutes, walking and sometimes changing direction as you go but always encouraging and rewarding with food when your dog has stayed by your side. Repeat these short sessions regularly and then do the same with the dog on lead in the backyard. When the dog appears to understand this 'game'- it is time to venture out of the backyard with your dog on lead.

There is bound to be a relapse in all the excitement of going for a walk. When this happens, stop walking and give the command you used in the backyard and lure the dog back with a food treat. When the dog stops pulling on the lead and returns to your side, praise your dog, give a food treat and start walking again. You are reinforcing the lesson that only when the lead is loose does the walk progress.

It takes time, patience, praise, and food treats but a dog who walks calmly on a loose lead makes the daily dog walk a real pleasure.

Burnie Dogs' Home

**170 Stowport Rd.,
Burnie TAS 7320**

Ph: (03) 6431 6199

Devonport Dogs' Home

**Spreyton Park Racecourse
Devonport TAS 7310**

Ph: (03) 6427 2178

Hobart Dogs' Home

**101 Scotts Rd.,
Risdon Vale TAS 7016**

Ph: (03) 6243 5177

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