



# 7 Common Walk Mistakes



## **Mistake #1: Confusing the Structured and Social walk**

There is a time for sniffing and a time for peeing, a time for running and a time for walking...Knowing when and where your dog should walk by your side and when they should be able to "do their own thing" is crucial to a successful walk. When walking your dog the decision as to if they are free or not should be yours and not your dogs.

## **Mistake #2: Rewarding an excited dog**

When you continue to go for a walk even though your dog is doing backflips and barking their head off only gives them the message that this is how to get what you want. Next time your dog is bouncing around the room as your bring their lead out wait for them to calm down and only then continue.

## **Mistake #3: Using the wrong collar or harness**

Some walking devices are not so good for training dogs to walk nicely. A standard flat collar is great for a dog who has learnt to walk well however it is not much use for training a dog that pulls. If the device that you are using is not working well then consider a change. Many dogs are not easy to train on retractable long lines, flat collars and back clip harness' yet these are three of the most commonly sold items by pet shops.

## **Mistake #4: You're not the pack leader in the house**

If you are not the pack leader inside the house then your dog is not going to suddenly let you become the pack leader and lead from the front when you leave the house. Dogs are pack animals and they understand that the pack leader leads from the front. Becoming the pack leader is the key to having an amazing dog. To learn more about becoming the pack leader, click here: [www.theonlinedogtrainer.com](http://www.theonlinedogtrainer.com).



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A cartoon illustration of a brown dog running to the right, looking back over its shoulder with a mischievous expression. It is wearing a red collar.

### Mistake #5: You are asking too much for your puppy

Many people think that their 5 month old puppy should be walking to heel perfectly without pulling down the street. This is very unrealistic, comparable to expecting a 2 year old child to use a knife and fork perfectly. It takes time and patience. Whilst a few people may have puppies with the ability to concentrate for long periods and low energy levels, for most people it is the other way round. Take your time and understand that your dogs is still a puppy and mastering the walk is unlikely to happen overnight.

### Mistake #6: Walking too slowly

Sometimes walking a little faster can make a big difference to the success of your walk. Most dogs walk at a faster pace than humans so increasing the speed is generally a good thing. If you walk too slowly their nose goes to the ground, they pick up a scent and get easily distracted. If you have a fit and healthy dog then you may even consider breaking into a jog if you have a fit healthy dog.

### Mistake #7: Too much routine

Dogs love routine however if you go the exact same route every day it is easy for them to predict your next step. Try altering your walk up a bit, especially at the start as you leave your property. When your dog starts watching you to see where you are going you are starting to get somewhere.

For more information on all 7 of these topics including how to become the pack leader, check out my video website [www.theonlinedogtrainer.com](http://www.theonlinedogtrainer.com) and master the walk today

All the best, Doggy Dan

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Doggy Dan'.