

# How To Make The Gentle Leader® Fun!



## Step by Step Instructions for Introducing The Gentle Leader

### Step 1

Get your treats and a clicker ready!

Every time you take the Gentle Leader® out, have a click and treat fest! Your dog should dance with excitement at the sight of his new training tool!

Show your dog the Gentle Leader®, each time they sniff it or go near it click, treat/reward, repeat multiple times

Next, hold the snout portion of the Gentle Leader® open and lure your dog's nose through the opening to get the treat. Click and treat for their nose coming through, repeat multiple times.

### Step 2

Next just let it rest on the nose, click and treat, repeat putting it on and taking it off rewarding each time

When your dog is comfortable with the Gentle Leader® on his nose go ahead and attach the collar portion, it should clip high on the neck right behind the ears, reward and lure your dog around the room, do not attach the leash yet. Don't leave it on for too long and do not apply any pressure.

When you have had success with walking around go ahead and add the leash, let it drag on the ground. Resist the urge to grab the leash and go for a walk, we aren't quite ready yet.

Once he has gotten used to it being on; begin putting it on him before meals and any other fun times during the day. It should be associated with good things.

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## Step 3

With the Gentle Leader® on and the leash attached pick up the leash and start to lure the dog towards you, you may be walking backward at this point while trying to get the dog to follow you with the Gentle Leader® on and the leash attached. Get a leash with 2 clips; clip one end of the leash to his buckle collar and one end of the leash to the Gentle Leader®. This way you don't always have to have pressure on the Gentle Leader and can eventually phase out the training aid and use your regular leash.

## Step 4

The one problem with head halters is they don't go away when the dog is good or makes good decisions; most people continue to pull on the leash or apply pressure. Having a leash attached to his regular buckle collar allows you to utilize his buckle collar most of the time and only apply pressure to the head halter when needed.

This use of two ends of your leash also helps teach him how to behave with just a buckle collar on.

The Gentle Leader® and similar head halters that are adjustable under the muzzle can be a marvelous training tool. If your dog has aggressive tendencies, they are essential in providing control and insurance against an incident, possibly for a lifetime.

However, if you are just utilizing this tool because your dog pulls on the leash or you could use more general control, you must remember it is a "training collar" and use it for its purpose to train and teach, not as something to use for a lifetime!