

Dog Walking Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Dog Walking
 - The collar needs to be placed (and stay) at the top of the neck.
 - Decide on a style of dog walking leash.
 - When taking out the leash, present it to your dog and wait until he/she is sitting or laying down calmly next to you.
 - Before placing the leash on your dog, make sure he's calmly sitting in place.
 - Never place a leash on a out of control dog.
 - Do not use a flex leash, it limits your control.
 - The leash should always be held loosely with your dog by your side.
 - Once the leash is on your dog and he/she is waiting calmly for your next move.
 - Stand up tall and proud, and walk towards the door.
 - Open the door and do not let your dog walk through the door before you.
 - If your dog is waiting calmly, only then should you invite your dog to join you outside.
 - Begin your walk by standing up straight and walking with pride in yourself.
 - Pay attention to yourself and your body language rather than focusing on your dog and what they are doing.
 - Develop a body language and sounds that your dog will identify with what you expect from him.
 - Your dog should never be allowed to be even an inch in front of you.
 - Be sure to not put tension on the leash, especially if your dog is doing the right thing by walking either beside you or next to you.
 - Reward your dog when he is doing what you want.
 - After exercising and walking for awhile, always allow the dog to smell and enjoy the things around him.
 - Once you return home, reward your dog's good behavior.