



Introducing a Dog to a Gentle Leader

by

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Walking on leash should be like holding hands – canine and human moving in concert. However, loose-leash walking is one of the most challenging things to train, precisely because consistency is so important to a dog learning it successfully.

The *Gentle Leader*, the *Halti*, or the *Snoot Loop* headcollars can decrease pulling on leash for dogs with issues on leash (lunging, etc) or for dogs who outweigh/outmuscle their handlers. However, dogs tend to reject them at the start. Here is how to expose him gradually to the use of a head collar:



Get Fido used to wearing the headcollar *before* using it for walks: Do short training sessions in the home with the headcollar on but not attached to a leash, so that there is no weight pulling on his head to start. Use very tasty, high-value treats for these sessions so that Fido starts to associate the headcollar with pleasurable things. Gradually transition to training sessions with the leash attached to the headcollar, still in the house. Hopefully by this point Fido has become quite comfortable with the head collar and is paying no more attention to it, take it on the road!