

Walking With Your Service Dog



What Equipment Does FSD Use?

- Easy Walk Harness
- Gentle Leader
- Perfect Pace Head Halter
- Halti
- Freedom Harness
- 3-in-1 Harness
- Martingale Collar



Dog Walking Basics

- **Bring Treats!**

- FSD trains our dogs with positive reinforcement, meaning we reward good behaviors with treats!

- **Stay Relaxed!**

- “Emotions travel down the leash.”
- Dogs will pick up on tightened grips, tension in our voices, or anxiety in our body language.
- Our dogs are proofed for these ‘typical human behaviors’ but frequent extreme actions from a handler may have an affect.

- **Motivate Your Dog!**

- Higher pitched verbal praise and a quick pace can help a distracted dog focus
- Low pitched verbal praise and calm petting can calm a dog down



Proper Heel Position

1. A “loose leash” is when your dog isn’t pulling ahead and remains next to your side with their shoulders in line with your hip
2. There should be slack in the leash
3. The dog should be focused and walking calmly
4. They should not pull or lunge to sniff, visit people, greet other dogs, or eat things off the ground



Pulling

Your dog may sometimes pull on the leash as they adjust to having a new handler

- What can I do to stop this?

1. U-Turns

- Pivot quickly to your right and encourage your dog to follow you. Once the dog is walking in the other direction, pivot again and treat for the dog returning to the correct position

2. Stop and ask for a Heel

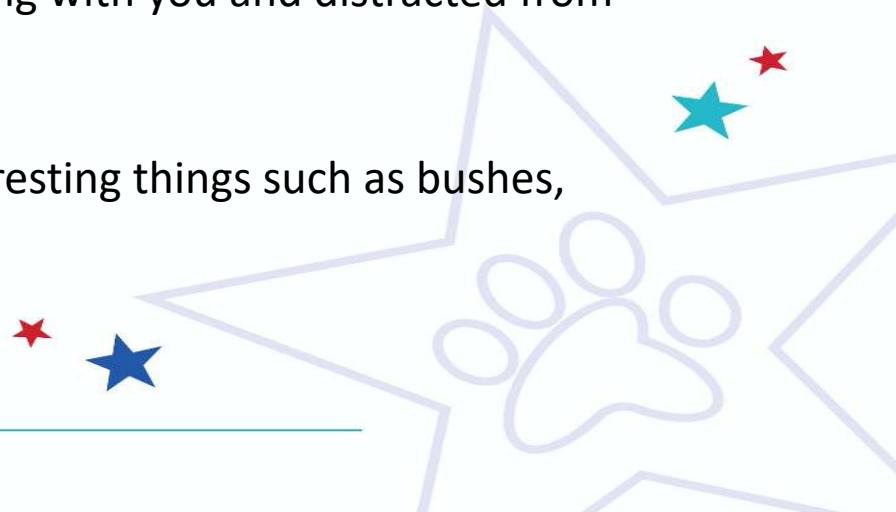
- Use the verbal cue, hand signal, or both to ask your dog to get back into the Heel position

3. “PEZ Dispenser” treating

- Give your dog several treats in quick succession to keep them moving with you and distracted from their surroundings.

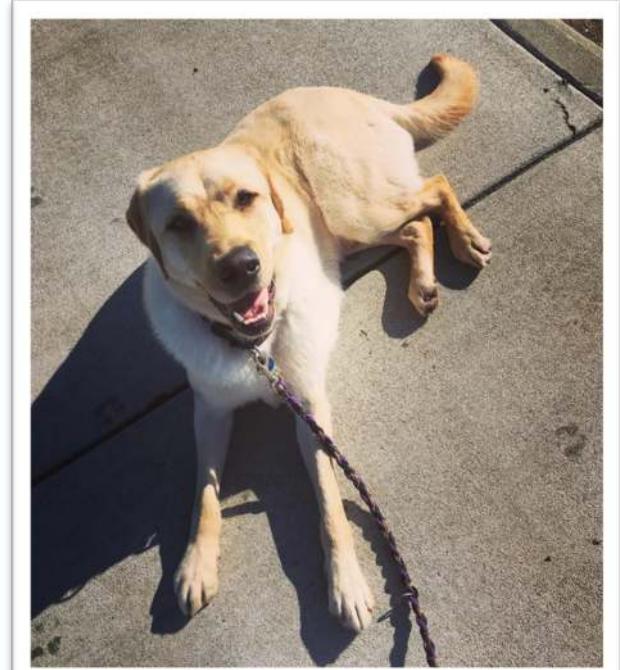
4. Using Distance

- Set your dog up for success by putting space between you and interesting things such as bushes, people, other dogs, or food on the ground when possible



Safety

- FSD dogs should NEVER, EVER be off leash on walks!
- Ideally, limit walks to be shorter when the temperature is above 80° or below 32° or use booties to protect your dog's feet as needed
- Avoid other dogs as much as possible by keeping your distance, walking in a different direction, or pulling off to the side as another dog passes
- Do not let your dog eat anything off of the ground or drink out of puddles. Use the “Leave It” cue to remind them to ignore items on the ground
- Use the “Manners” cue to prevent your dog from coming in contact with people and other dogs
- If an off-leash dog is approaching, you can make yourself look big by raising your arms out, or toss a handful of treats at the approaching dog while you move away



How do I Motivate my Dog?

Treats



Happy Voice



Physical Touch



Pace Changes



Energetic Movement



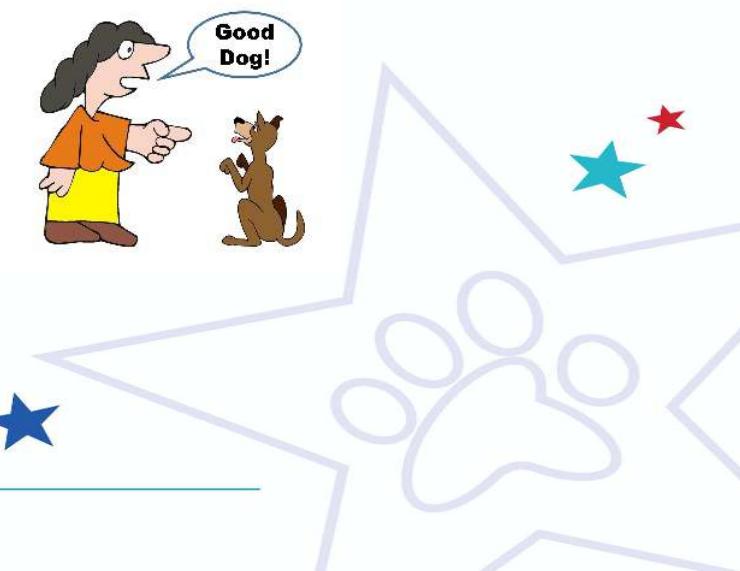
“Go Sniff” Cue



Toys

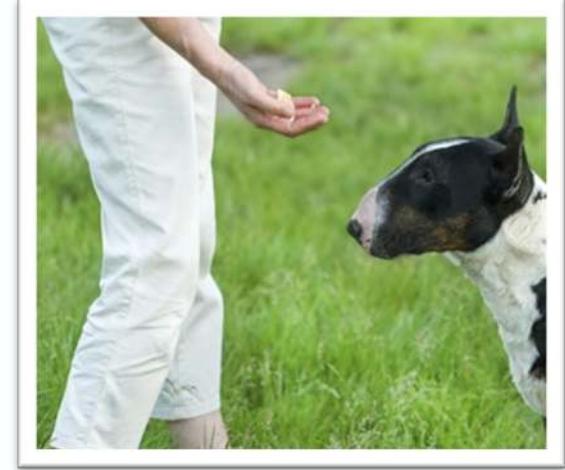


Verbal Praise



Taking Treats

- There are a few reasons that a dog might not be taking treats gently:
 1. He is overstimulated
 2. He is stressed
- Try removing your hand, saying “Uh-Oh,” and re-presenting the treat to the dog.
- Once he either licks your hand or backs away from it, present the treat to him in an open palm and say “gentle.”
- Giving them the treat when they attempt to take it hard only rewards them for not being gentle.
- If a dog isn’t taking treats, he is likely overstimulated, stressed, or highly distracted.
- Remember: an overstimulated or stressed dog may need some time to relax (either alone or with your help) before you attempt to continue.



What Behaviors do I Mark?

U-TURNS

When making a U-Turn, you should mark the moment the dog turns around to come with you. When he turns his head to follow you, mark the behavior, and then give him a treat.

DISENGAGING

If your dog is distracted by something, get his by using his name, the Watch cue, movement, or your voice. The moment he looks away from what he is distracted by, mark and give a treat.

EYE CONTACT

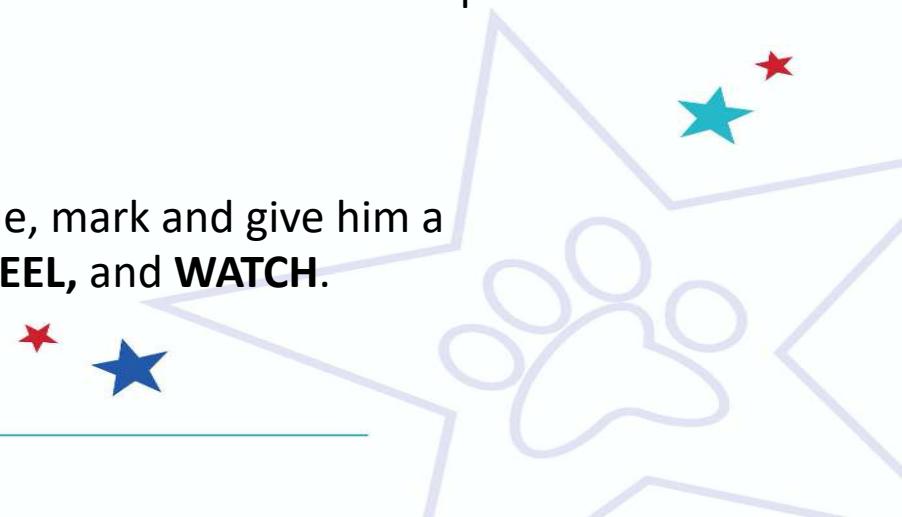
If your dog offers eye contact without you asking, mark and give him a treat.

MAINTAINING A HEEL POSITION

If your dog is walking nicely at your side, you can occasionally mark & treat this correct choice to help your dog make that choice consistently

BASIC CUES

The moment your dog performs a correct behavior when you give him the cue, mark and give him a treat. Cues you will likely use while walking are **WAIT**, **LEAVE IT**, **MANNERS**, **HEEL**, and **WATCH**.



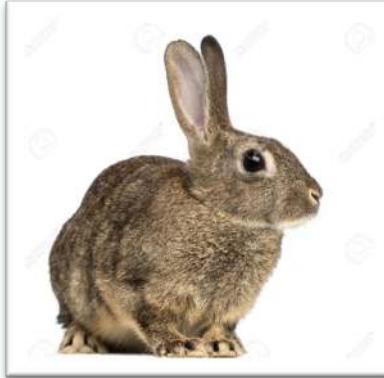
Dos and Don'ts

DO	DON'T
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be ready to catch good behaviors and mark them2. Utilize proper leash holding techniques – i.e. “anchor hand”3. Reward often as you build a new relationship4. Be proactive when it comes to distractions and difficult situations5. Bring treats!	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pre-load your hand with treats2. Repeat cues3. Use constant chatter to keep your dog’s attention4. Wrap the leash around your hand5. Forget to be aware of your surroundings when focusing on your dog





Leash Reactivity

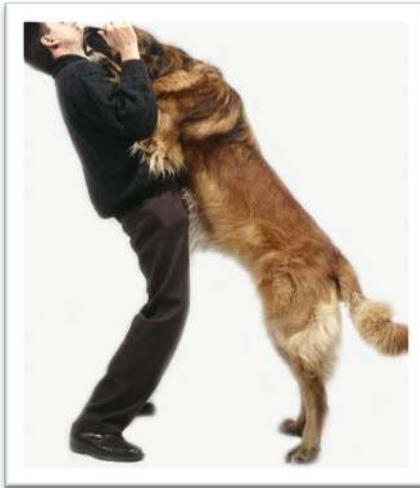


Prey Drive



Poor Manners

What Problems Might I run Into?



Jumping Up



Sniffing

How to Address These Problems

- Use the dog's name
- Use a cue to give the dog clear direction as to what you'd like instead- like Heel, Watch, Manners or Leave It
- Change direction or move away to create distance
- Use some refocusing cues like Touch or Sit
- Use a treat to lure your dog away if the above options are not successful
- Use gentle leash pressure to guide your dog away if all else fails

