



FSD Dog Handling and Training Do's and Don'ts

Do take your time loose leash walking with the dog. When approaching the facility, practice walking toward the building and through doorways.

Don't allow the dog to pull you toward buildings and doorways. Practice impulse control, loose leash walking, and yielding to collar pressure. A client will not be able to manage a dog that pulls them around and this could lead to injury.

Do use all time with an FSD dog to practice good behavior. Unless otherwise noted (sniffy walks, "All Done," and play time), dogs in FSD care should be treated as though they are working/ training any time they are in public.

Don't allow dogs to solicit attention while in offices; or on or off-leash. Dogs should pass by people, other dogs, and any distractions without pulling toward or soliciting attention. Dogs should not stand at office gates and solicit attention.

Do remember to keep your body still, and avoid talking too much when cueing a dog. Our dogs are looking for clear verbal and visual cues, and excess movement and words can be confusing.

Don't carry treats in your hand. This can be distracting and can be accidentally seen as bribing the dog for behavior. Mark, THEN reach for the treat and deliver.

Do use the cue before the action—not after!

Don't repeat cues. Say your cue, and be patient; if the dog does not comply within 10 seconds, reset or move on to something else, and re-evaluate the situation. It is possible the dog has not yet learned that cue fluently.

Do fade out food lures as quickly as possible. Bait your hand up to five times, and then use your hand alone by the sixth time. This is very important, as we do not want dogs that are reliant on lures and do not know how to do the behavior without one.



Don't give both cues at the same time. When using the verbal with a visual cue, say the verbal (Sit) then give the hand signal (raised hand palm up).

Do use your tone of voice to help and not harm. Cues should be delivered in a regular, even tone of voice; you don't need to command the dog harshly. Using calm praise is helpful for an easily excitable dog.

Don't yell at the dog, use leash pops, or spray bottles

Do ask for help if you need it!