

Let's Go – Person's Walk

Purpose:

The **Let's Go** exercise teaches your dog to walk on a loose leash beside you. A **Let's Go** means no pulling, lagging, or sniffing the ground.

Verbal Signal: Yes

Non-Verbal Signal: Optional

Steps for Teaching Let's Go:

Step 1 – Decide whether you want your dog to walk on your right or left side. Choose one side and be consistent.

Step 2 – If your dog is walking on your left side, put some food rewards in your left hand. Put the leash and clicker in your right hand.

If your dog is walking on your right side, put some food rewards in your right hand. Put the leash and clicker in your left hand.

Step 3 – While standing still, lure your dog to the side she will be walking on. Once, your dog is by your side, be sure you have her attention. Say her name if needed. Show her the food rewards in your hand and start moving.

Move only a short distance. When the leash is loose and your dog is walking by your side, **Click**. Stop moving and then **Treat** your dog with a food reward.

Training Tip

Keep several food rewards in your hand. When you **Click** and stop, **Treat** your dog with only one food reward.

Feed your dog the treat by your chosen side instead of in front of you, even if she moves out of position after hearing the click. By consistently rewarding her with a treat fed by your side, she will remain by you because she knows this is where the treat will be. As soon as she has finished eating the reward, repeat Step 3.

Let's Go continued

Savvy Helpful Hint

Here is an example of the steps used between Joe and his dog Fido:

- Joe says, "Fido"
- Fido looks at Joe
- Joe shows Fido the lure
- Joe begins to move
- Joe moves a short distance
- Fido is walking nicely beside Joe without pulling, lagging, or sniffing the ground
- Joe **Clicks**
- Joe stops walking
- Joe gives Fido a **Treat** at his side.
- Joe repeats the steps.

Savvy Helpful Hint

Remember the click ends the behavior. That is why you stop moving and then treat. Do not treat while you and your dog are moving.

Step 4 – Once your dog is successful walking by your side a short distance (4 or 5 feet) without pulling on the leash, it is time to put a signal to the behavior. While standing still, lure your dog to your side. Once you have your dog's attention say, "**Let's Go**" and move forward a few feet. While you are both moving and your dog is by your side, **Click**. Stop moving and **Treat** your dog by your side. Repeat several times.

Step 5 – When you are comfortable adding the signal and your dog walks by your side for short distances without pulling on the leash, gradually increase the distance you move forward. **Click** while your dog is walking politely by your side. Stop and **Treat**.

Step 6 – Gradually stop putting a food lure in your hand. If needed, you can use your empty hand to get your dog into position. Little by little, stop using any hand motion to get your dog by your side. Instead, say your dog's name (if required to get her attention), then say "**Let's Go**", and then move forward.

Training Tip

When you first train the **Let's Go**, practice inside your home or in a distraction free area. Once your dog is doing well inside, train outside or in an area with more distractions. Start with areas only slightly distracting and move to areas of increasing distraction. An example might be training in your driveway. The next time train in front of your home, and the next session train in front of your neighbor's house. Each time the distractions increase, you may need to give your dog a refresher by starting at Step 1 and then quickly working up to her current level of performance.

Let's Go continued

Step 7 – Once your dog is doing the **Let's Go** well in one area, move into different areas. A new area will bring new distractions so if the behavior “falls apart” be prepared to go back a Step or two. Find which Step your dog will work and then quickly go through the Steps your dog knows until she is back to her current level.

Training Tip

Part of your dog's enjoyment on a walk is to investigate the environment. While on a **Let's Go**, occasionally give your dog a release signal and allow her to smell the grass or a bush, sniff the ground to go potty, or greet another person.

Training Tip

When you first train the **Let's Go**, be very generous with the number of clicks and treats. Once your dog understands the **Let's Go** and easily walks by your side, gradually increase the distance you are moving before you click and treat. Use verbal praise to reinforce the **Let's Go** between the clicks and treats.