

## **In-House Behavior Modification Protocol**

### **Pulling on leash**

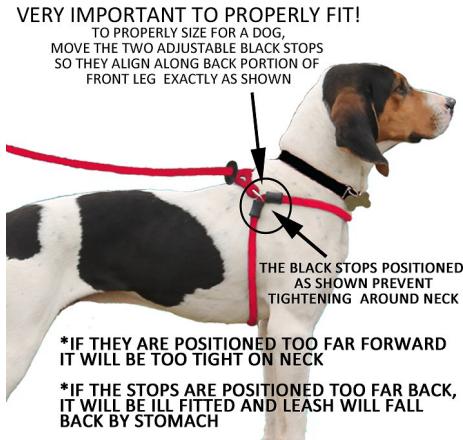
***Protocol to be used for dogs that pull on their leash while on a walk.***

**'Turn to stone'** method: while walking the dog - anytime the leash is tight - stop dead in your tracks. Do not say anything to the dog and do not pull back on the leash. Just stand there and ignore the dog. When he/she slackens the leash - resume walking forward. Do this every time the dog pulls.

**'About face'** method: if the dog doesn't slacken the leash within 20 seconds of you stopping, turn around and start walking in the other direction. The dog will be forced to come along with you and when he/she catches up - you can turn around and go in the original direction.

**Reward good behavior**: when the dog is walking on a loose leash - randomly CLICK and treat. When you CLICK the dog should come back to you for the treat. This procedure will teach the dog to stay within a certain radius around your body to earn a reward. The first reward for walking with a slack leash is that the dog gets to continue walking forward. The second reward is earning random treats.

For some dogs special techniques or tools can be helpful. One technique involves wrapping the leash around the dog's chest and then attached to the ring on the collar (picture below) or up through the loop of a martingale collar. This body-wrap technique can work but shortens the leash. The tool that was developed with this technique in mind is called the 'harness lead' (picture below) ([www.harnesslead.com](http://www.harnesslead.com)).



Other tools that help for pulling are the front-clasping body harnesses (Easy Walker, Sensible and Sensation Harness and others). These harnesses are designed so that the leash comes out from the chest instead of the back (picture below). When wearing this type of harness the dog's entire front half moves around to the side when there is tension on the leash, making it difficult for the dog to continue any forward movement.



The ultimate in tool for harsh pullers is the canine head halters (Gentle Leader, Halti, Snoot Loop, Comfort Trainer) designed like horse halters (picture below). When a dog is wearing a head halter he is discouraged from pulling because as he does, his head is brought around towards you, making it difficult for him to pull. Head halters usually require some desensitization to help the dog get used to the feel of it on his/her face. This process usually involves a few days of putting it on and off several times – increasing the amount of time it stays on each time. To help the process along, offering extra special treats every time it is put on will help.

