

The Walk – Dog Owner and Dog Behavior

A well-balanced dog shows love, trust, and respect for its owner, enjoys being with people, but is also at ease when alone. This kind of dog remains steady—untroubled by fear, anxiety, or overexcitement—and is well-socialized, interacting properly with other dogs and reliably following commands. These traits are signs of both a well-adapted pet and responsible care from the owner.

Are you making the effort to spend plenty of time walking, exercising and challenging your dog?

Staying calm, confident, and in control helps when interacting with any dog. This composure reassures anxious dogs and signals assertive dogs that you can handle situations, reducing their need to be protective.

A lack of exercise can contribute to behavior issues – Exercise levels are often connected to various dog behavior concerns. If a dog is taken for walks just once a week, it may accumulate several days' worth of unused energy.

The psychological aspect is significant – beyond physical activity, even a routine walk can substantially enhance a dog's overall well-being. Walking is an innate behaviour for dogs. Notably, many dogs display heightened anticipation when their owner prepares for a walk by retrieving the leash.

Establishing a relationship with a dog early is important. If a dog enjoys walks, taking it for a walk at the beginning can facilitate this process. Observing the dog's behavior, personality, and general confidence during the walk provides useful insights, while the dog also learns about its handler. Dogs are able to detect mood and energy through body language, pheromones, posture, and tone of voice. It is advisable to be aware of the messages being communicated from the outset.

It's about gradually establishing yourself as an authority figure – A straightforward way to be recognized as someone to follow is by taking charge during walks. This approach can help a dog perceive you as having leadership qualities, not solely as a companion.

It's about meeting specific breed needs—for example, some dogs are natural hunters or sniffers. Tailor walks to fit the dog's breed: with scent hounds, allow time for sniffing by giving a slack lead and controlling when it starts and ends. Fulfilling these instincts may be new and rewarding for the dog.