

## USING PLAY TO REINFORCE LOOSE LEASH WALKING

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Training Tip Tuesday: Using play to reinforce Loose Leash Walking (LLW).

Yes - i know its Monday! But i will be traveling all day tomorrow and didn't want to miss a post! So - if you have a dog who understands the basic concept of LLW; but struggles to stay focused or maintain that loose leash; using play can really help him tune in and WANT to be with you. (if your dog doesn't have a basic understanding of the concept - go back and start there!) The idea is that when the dog is correct; great things happen WITH you! Your first task is to find a game that the dog thinks is really rewarding; it has to be what makes the dog happy, not you! Afterall, its HIS reward, not yours! In the video below; Kod loves his frisbee and loves to tug, so thats what we use. If you dog prefers to catch a ball, or chase a rope - then use those. If he doesn't care about toys, but loves food - get some really yummy treats, and don't just pop him one or two, make it a game and get him a whole bunch! If neither food or toys light him up, then perhaps a good ol' cuddle session is his reward. The game itself is simple - you are going to ask the dog to walk a few feet, and when he's correct - out pops the toy! You engage with him, and make it really fun, then ask for another few steps. Add turns and changes of pace to keep it interesting. The more fun you are, the more rewarding it is to be with you - the less the environment matters. Start in a distraction free environment to build the behavior, then start moving to other areas. You will find your dog choosing to pay attention to you in hopes of a game, instead of everything else around!

<https://youtu.be/7g15tM65htE>