

## In-House Behavior Modification Protocol Grabbing and Tugging on Leash

*Protocol to be used for dogs that grab hold of the leash and tug during walks*

### Tools to try:

1. Use a chain leash for walking because most dogs don't like to bite onto the chain.
2. Choke chain link – open the choke chain collar flat and clip one end to the dog's collar and the other end to the leash. This essentially puts a short chain link where the dog is most likely to grab.
3. Slip a 4-foot length of PVC pipe over the leash after connecting it to the dog's collar or harness. Most dogs won't bite the PVC and it certainly doesn't allow the tugging feedback that a leash being held does.
4. Leash Link product <https://www.leashlinks.com/>
5. Leash Pole product <https://animal-care.com/product/humaniac-leash-pole/>

### Other strategies to try

1. Give the dog a tug toy before even leashing him/her up and use the toy to redirect any leash biting during the walk.
2. Use two leashes when walking the dog - one connected to the collar and the other to a harness. As soon as the dog grabs one - drop that leash while continuing to hold the other.
3. Distraction - add a pasty food (peanut butter, spray cheese, liverwurst) into the cup of a ball launcher and hold it in front of the dog's face while you walk the dog to the destination.
4. Properly fit and desensitize the dog to wear a head halter so that the handler can lift up to close the dog's mouth when he/she tries to grab the leash.

5. For severe cases where none of the above suggestions work - properly fit and desensitize the dog to wear a basket muzzle. The muzzle is then to be worn on walks so that the dog is prevented from grabbing the leash. The hope with this option is that the dog learns that walks are fun and interesting without the leash grabbing behavior. Eventually we want to wean the dog off the muzzle for walks.