Train Your Cat to Walk on a Leash

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Many cat owners long to give their cats the excitement that being outside brings. Sight, movements, sounds, and smells are all enticing to cats. On the other hand, cat owners know that letting their cats outside without supervision is not a good idea. Solutions for some owners include fencing their yard or using an outdoor containment system. If your cat enjoys the outdoors and you want to find a compromise, try training your cat to accept a harness and a lead.

Training Steps

1. First, get your cat used to wearing a harness indoors. A harness is far superior to a collar because it is more difficult for a cat to free herself from one.

- When she is used to wearing the harness, tie a rope or a cord to it and let her drag the rope so that she gets used to the feel of a pull on the harness.
- Once you have done that, you can attach a lead to the harness and attach yourself to the other end.
- Make sure the first few times you lead your cat outside that it's a quiet time of day, so that she doesn't get frightened.
- To coax your cat to walk along with you, offer her special treats.

Remember that grass and woods are much more interesting to your cat than a concrete sidewalk!

We have heard many stories of owners whose cats trail along with them when they go for a stroll. Using a leash with a harness makes this a safe, enjoyable exercise.

WE RECOMMEND

Walk-n-Lead®

Lupine Patterned Harnesses & Leads

Plastic ID Nametags

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