

# Genius Dog Newsletter

## GENIUS DOG TRAINING

*“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.” Roger Caras*

### **Pet Products – *Do they really work?* (Part II)**

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Summer 2014

Volume 6, Issue 2

One of the most common complaints I receive from clients is that their dogs pull them while walking. Besides being uncomfortable, this can also be a safety issue for both you and your dog(s).

Normally, what I would do is train the dog to walk nicely on a leash without pulling (also known as loose leash/lead walking) or heeling (with the dog next to your left side in the heel position).

However, training can take time and there are other issues to take into consideration as well. For instance,

- Does the person walking the dog have any health issues (e.g. arthritis, back problems, etc.)?
- Will a child be walking the dog?
- Are you walking more than one dog at the same time?
- How large is your dog?
- How strong is your dog?

If after answering these questions you realize you may need some additional help besides training, there are many pet products available to help keep your dog from pulling. Unfortunately, I won't be able to cover all the products that are available. However, the two I will be discussing are head collars and no-pull harnesses.

Head collars, such as the HALTI, Gentle Leader, and K9 Bridle can help keep your dog from pulling and jumping up on people while out on a walk. Head collars are not muzzles; dogs can still pant, drink, eat, bark, and even bite while wearing one.

Pros: relatively easy to use, less expensive than no pull harnesses, small size (can fit in your pocket when not in use).

Cons: cannot be used on Brachycephalic dog breeds (e.g. French Bulldog, Pug, etc.), some dogs have difficulty acclimating to the head collar (Wylie rolled down a small hill

trying to get his off – teaching him how to loose leash walk and heel was a better choice than a head collar), it reminds people of a muzzle.

The two no-pull harnesses that I usually recommend are the PetSafe Easy Walk Harness and the Walk Right! Padded Front Harness.

Although both products work well, I prefer the Walk Right! for a couple of reasons: it's easy to put on, it has an attachment for both the chest and back, and it seems to allow for easier movement. However, it is more expensive than the Easy Walk and comes in fewer colors.

Pros: can be used on Brachycephalic dog breeds, less stigma than head collars, seems to work well with large breed dogs.

Cons: harder to adjust, sizing can be more difficult, more expensive than head collars.

If you are a client and would like to try one of this products before purchasing, just let me know.

HALTI



Gentle Leader



K9 Bridle



Easy Walk



Walk Right!



## GENIUS DOG TRAINING

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## SUMMER TRAINING SPECIALS

Beginner Obedience Training Class at Pet Ville Pet Hotel located in San Marcos begins June 14. Register today and save \$10!

New clients (San Diego & Riverside County) receive 10% off private, in-home training during the months of June, July, and August.

## ONLINE STORE SPECIALS

Free shipping on all orders during the months of June and July.

Genius Dog Training's Online Store is available to our clients, previous clients, and newsletter subscribers. Check out some of our great pet products.

*Genius Dog Training is independently owned and operated since 2008.*



## Wylie's Corner

Looking for some summer fun in the sun? Here are some great places you can take your four-legged family member to and have some fun.

Sixth Annual Doggie Street Festival

Saturday, July 12, 2014  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Liberty Station:  
NTC Park 92106

The event of the year you just can't miss. Let's celebrate our pet companions. There'll be yummy eats, music, pet products & services, vet tips, a kids area, cupcake lounge, and more.

For more additional information and directions visit their website <http://doggiestreetfestival.org/>

### Dog Friendly Wineries

Temecula, California is known for its wineries. Did you know there are many wineries that allow well-behaved dogs (like me) in both their tasting rooms and outdoor patio areas? Sydney and I visited the Oak Mountain Winery a couple of weeks ago. It was pretty cool, but I still like hanging out at Fiesta Island. It must be a "guy" thing. Just a reminder for my canine pals, no eating the grapes!

Here's something I haven't tried...

Mark your calendars for Hotel Indigo's Canine Cocktails!

June 12, 2014  
5:30 pm to 9:00 pm  
Admission:

Benefiting: San Diego Humane Society

Summer is here! Ring it in with a drink and some eats up top our Level 9 lounge! Kick back, relax, and enjoy the view on this lovely summer evening!

Whatever you decide to do this summer, remember not to leave us behind in the car.

Have a safe summer!



*"The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed in this article are my own and do not necessarily reflect that of Genius Dog Training." – Wylie, CEO*