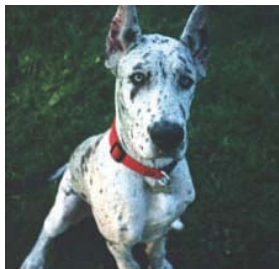


## Gentle Leader

*Please talk to your MAGDRL representative about purchasing a gentle leader for your dog.*

*Gentle Leaders are also available through most pet stores.*

*It's a kinder gentler way to train your dog.*

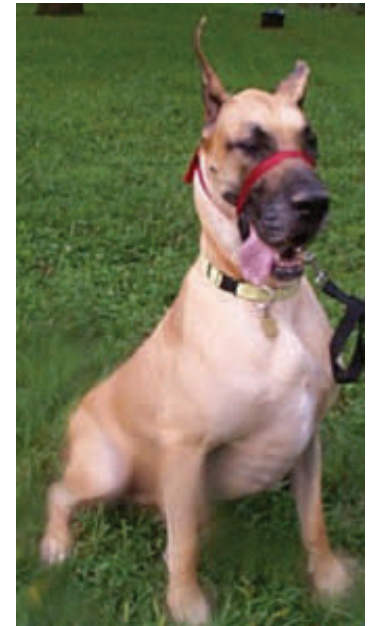


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Mid-Atlantic Great  
Dane Rescue League,  
Inc.

## **No It's Not A Muzzle...**



*How to desensitize your dog  
to the Gentle Leader*

By  
Trish McMillian, Trainer  
Berkley CA.

**MAGDRL**

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## Gentle Leader Desensitization



Thor sporting his red Gentle Leader

Remember how much your baby puppy scratched at her neck when she first wore a collar? Ever seen a colt buck around the field while wearing his first halter? Animals are not used to wearing

"clothes," so it's a good idea to take a few sessions to get your dog used to wearing a Gentle

Leader before you go out for that first leash walk with it. (It's nice to do this for baby horses too!)

### **Fitting the Gentle Leader**

Fit the neck strap first, letting the nose loop dangle. The neck strap is the one with the buckle or clasp on it. Fit this quite snugly; you should only be able to put one finger under the strap. Pull extra hair and scruff out behind the neck strap, so that the strap lies immediately behind the ears.

The nose loop should be fitted so that when the neck strap is fastened the dog will not be able to wipe the loop off with a paw. Pull the center of the nose loop down, it should just reach the upper edge

of the dog's nose leather. The nose loop is the unfamiliar part, so if the neck strap is snug we'll be able to keep this loose. Your dog should be able to pant comfortably in a properly-fitted GL; if her breath sounds really raspy, you may have the nose loop too tight.

### **Step 1**

Hold the Gentle Leader on the "figure 8" metal ring, with the nose loop open above it. Hold a treat in your other hand, close to the loop, so that the dog will have to put her nose through the loop to get the treat. Do this until she is happily putting her nose in before you even have the treat in place.

### **Step 2**

Put a bit of pressure downward on the nose strap as your dog is eating the treat. Gradually increase the duration of the pressure before releasing the treat, until you can put a few seconds of light pressure with the dog remaining happy and waggy, expecting her treat.

### **Step 3**

Put on the nose loop and buckle up the neck strap before giving the treat. You can leave it on the dog and feed a whole meal this way.

### **Step 4**

Add the leash, feed treats, add a bit of pressure to each side and down before each treat. If your dog seems unhappy about any of these steps, go back to the previous one until she's happy.

### **Step 5**

Now you're ready for a walk! If you've spend two or three days doing the first four steps, your dog should be happy and waggy when you take out the GL. Start with the "attention"

exercise on the walk, standing still and rewarding the dog for eye contact. Make the first few walks short and heavy on rewards.

If your dog starts pawing at the nose loop, just raise her head slightly so that she can't get a paw over the leash. The moment she stops struggling, release the leash pressure immediately and continue the walk. Treat for non-pawing, and for eye contact throughout the walk. As your dog becomes used to wearing a halter, you can treat less frequently, though I always suggest that a dog in training get rewarded often for eye contact.

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