

## DOG WALKING

### Chasing Behavior

Because canines are natural predators, many pets love the thrill of the chase. Unfortunately, cars, minivans and bicycles aren't exactly traditional prey items for canines. Your dog could easily get injured should he attempt to pursue a passing vehicle.

Chasing behavior is largely instinctual in canines, especially in certain breeds of terriers, sight hounds and herding dogs. You won't be able to eliminate your pet's desire to chase, but it is possible to control this dangerous activity.

The easiest way, of course, is to cut off his access to the street. Does your yard have an escape-proof fence? If it does not have a fence, keep your dog secured on a tether when you are not around to supervise him. No matter how well-trained your pet may be, accidents can and do, happen.

Secure your dog on a 6 ft. lead. As your friend drives or bikes past, command your dog to "Sit." Offer him a food reward for sitting on command as the car or bike passes. Repeat this exercise several times. At the end of the session, give your dog a favorite toy.

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As you retrain, it's a good idea to assess your dog's current activity level. Is he getting enough exercise? If not, your dog may view car chasing as the perfect way to combat boredom and meet his exercise requirements. Be sure to get in two good walks every day, as well as some structured games - especially ones that involve an element of the chase, such as fetching. If he persists in chasing, you may need to work with a professional to solve this difficult problem.





## When You Can't Take Them With You

Canine Boarding & Kenneling

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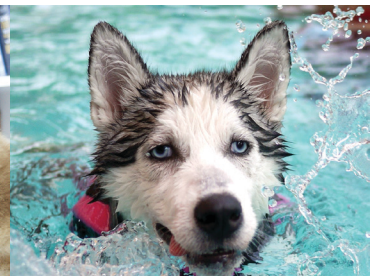
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