

International Animal Behaviour Training College (IABTC)

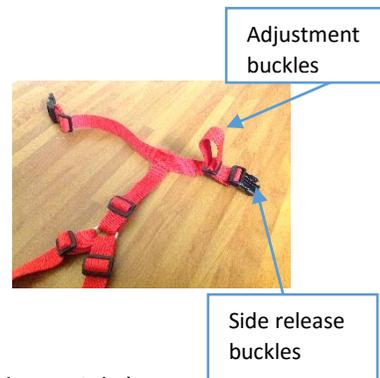
Walking in Harmony with the Harmony Harness

The harmony harness is designed to support your dog and take away the strain from around the neck when he moves forward. *If your dog is sensitive it may be best to allow your dog to get used to it – see desensitisation on next page.*

Adjusting your Harmony Harness



The harness has plenty of adjustment so use the buckles to bring the harness into a snug fit (allow for the dog panting heavily – so not too tight). It may be easier to take the harness off to adjust so as not to worry or over excite your dog



Fitting the Harmony Harness

1. The dog's head goes through the joined up part of the harness (the centre of the picture above right).

A



2. Fasten the side release buckles to secure

With the rings to the top.



Below is a side view



Attaching the Harmony Lead for Walking the Dog on the Left



B With the dog on your left. Attach the looped part of the lead to the centre ring at the back

C Take the other end and slot it through the ring next to you (dog's right)

D Pull the same end round the chest and from behind slot through the chest ring

E Secure with the hook to the ring on the dog's left

F Take up any slack and you are ready to go



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Walking Together in Harmony

Once successfully fitted as described, the harness is set up to walk with your dog on your left. It is not a magic cure, but it should give you a window of opportunity to get your training right, let the dog know how nice you are and how you guide him into good situations and to make the dog feel that by your side on a loose lead is the best place to be.

Step 1 Start in a quiet non distracting environment to help you and the dog concentrate. With the dog on your left, take a moment to stand still and get control of the lead and the dog. Remember this is about being pleasantly in control – no shouting or rough handling please.

Step 2 Take up the slack on the lead – to start with it is best to use 2 hands. Your left hand on the end coming from the back, and your right hand on the part of the lead that comes from around the chest.

Step 3 Your leading hand will be your right hand (with the lead from under the chest). Your left hand will just be used to steady the dog if necessary.

Step 4 Move forward encouraging your dog with you, most dogs at this stage will not pull very much (if at all). Click or say your marker word that tells the dog he has done well, lavishly praise him and stop and reward him with a high value treat. Try to give him his treat while he is still in the right place by your side as this will give additional reinforcement to the correct behaviour. (It's useful to have some rewards in your left hand or left pocket ready). *If he does pull the best thing to do is guide him back towards you and change directions. Use your right hand lead to turn him around, encourage him to be with you and then when he is walking nicely reward as above.*

Step 5 Repeat Step 4 until your dog is walking with you whatever direction you go – you make the direction decisions and keep surprising your dog by changing direction frequently. Keep in control and reward often with high value rewards. Your dog should soon be happy to walk in harmony with you.

Step 6 Try steps 4&5 in different places so the dog learns that this Harmony walking is the new normal, no matter where you are! Save the most exciting or distracting places until you are feeling fully confident and your dog is too. Where distractions are greatest start from a distance and reward your dog often for good Harmony walking.

Walking your dog on your right

If it is appropriate to swap sides from time to time but the dog is normally on the left, then don't worry about it. If you walk the dog predominantly on the right simply thread the lead the other way around.

Desensitising Sensitive Dogs

If your dog is sensitive, has suffered trauma, or is just unsure of new things, take your time to introduce the harness – start with it on the floor or in your hands and reward the dog for any interest. Then hold the head entrance area, put your hand through it and invite the dog to take a treat. Take plenty of time building up gradually and giving the dog lots of rewards, eventually he should see the harness as a good thing and accept it readily.

Experiencing Difficulties?

If your dog has severe problems e.g. aggression, reactivity or if your dog is suffering from any health problems you must contact an appropriate specialist before using the Harmony Harness.

