

Help! My Dog Pulls on the Leash!

Harness Selection.

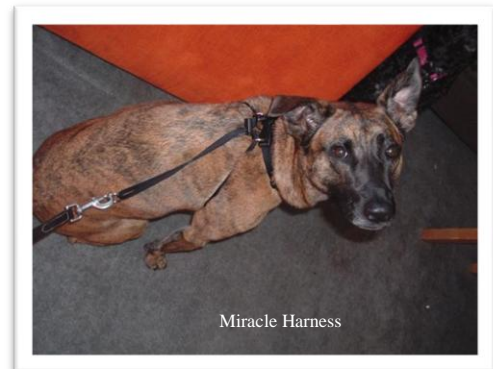
Choosing the right harness or halter combination can be a quick fix or at least a relief from all that shoulder-wrenching pulling that untrained dogs can do. There are two types of harnesses available and often people get the two confused: those *for* pulling and those that work *against* pulling on the leash. The ones that work against pulling are usually called anti-pulling harnesses.

Anti-Pulling Harnesses

There are two types of anti-pulling harnesses: the Miracle Harness (a name brand) and front clip harness (the Easy-Walk harness made by Gentle Leader, the SENSE-ible dog harness, and Halti makes one too). You can also buy a standard Y-shaped harness and just clip your leash to the front of it to make your own.

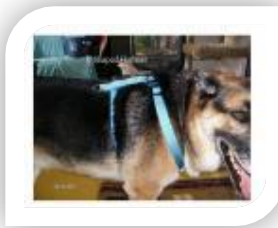
Miracle Harnesses are great for dogs and puppies who pull and zig-zag. The 'suspenders' go under the dog's leg pits and tighten when the dog pulls. Most dogs don't like this sensation and stop pulling. I like Miracle Harnesses because they tend to work on most dogs, however, front clip harnesses have the added bonus of giving you more control of the dog's front end (i.e. their teeth). This helps turn around a dog who lunges.

Be mindful on sizing a front clip harness. The strap around the front of the dog's chest should be tight enough that there is no slack in it (for some reason, people purchase this harness too large!) When purchasing either of these anti-pull harnesses, you and your dog are the best judges. Try them both on at the petstore by walking your dog around the store to see which harness works better.



For Pulling Harnesses

These harnesses work really well for teaching your dog *to* pull (think sled dog). Step-in harnesses (far left) and Y shaped harnesses (center) are usually for little dogs, or for walking your dog on a long leash (to absorb impact). The harness on the right is designed to buckle your dog safely in the car.



OK now you should know the difference between anti-pulling harnesses and *for* pulling harnesses. Make sure you pick the right one!

