



Tie Downs

The Magnificent Dog Management Tool

A tie down is a great management tool for:

- Separation anxiety/Fear/Shyness
- Jumping up on people or furniture
- Playing too rough
- Chewing up the wrong things
- Potty training
- Barking at the door
- Mouthing
- Bothering the family at dinner
- Meeting a cat
- Pack Leadership

A tie down is a leash, rope or cable that is about 20 inches-30 inches (2-3 feet) long and is attached to an immovable object (like a piece of furniture, or an eyebolt that is placed in the wall) and to your dog's flat collar or harness. Only use a tie down when you are home and only use it on your dog's flat collar or harness. For safety purposes, make sure not to attach the tie down to a Gentle Leader, Haltie, choke, pinch or any other restricting collar. It's dangerous!

Make sure when you put your dog on tie down that he has a toy or bone to chew and play with. You can even put his bed at the tie down spot so your dog is nice and comfortable.

Keep in mind a tie down is NOT a tie out. A tie out is a 10-12 foot cable used to tie out dogs in a yard so they don't run away.

A tie down trains your dog to relax and self soothe. It also keeps him out of mischief.

A tie down is used in a fairly busy room in your house. It is used ONLY when someone is home.

Your dog has several decisions to make everyday. For example: should he choose to chase the cat, nip at the kids, bark, jump on the couch, or jump up on the new person at the door? By being on tie down, your dog watches you the "pack leader" and learns to relax because he doesn't have any other choices. You, as the leader, are taking care of everything. You must reward your dog for good behavior.

Your dog sees you come and go from room to room which helps ease any separation anxiety he might have. It also lets him know that he is not the pack leader, therefore he has no pack leader responsibilities. This is very important for your dog because he needs good leadership and structure. Without good leadership and structure your dog gets contradictory signals from you and might make an inappropriate decision causing friction in your family.

There are 5 key elements to being a pack leader – a pack leader solicits all attention, manages all the territory, starts and stops all play, sits/sleeps in the highest place and controls all food. Using a tie down addresses attention, territory and sleeping arrangements all at once. Because your dog is on tie down, you, the pack leader, are in control of all attention because your dog cannot just come up to you and nudge you for a pet. You must make the decision to come over to him and give him attention. Moreover, your dog does not have full reign of the house/territory, you do, since you are walking around and he is restricted to his tie down. And lastly, with your dog lying on the floor on tie down you are always in the highest position whether you're sitting in your chair or lying on your couch.

By using proper management tools you are communicating to your dog in ways that he innately understands.

If your dog is doing something you disapprove of such as, jumping up, all you do is take the dog to the tie down and hook him to it. It's that simple. The dog learns that jumping up was not a good behavior to do

because he was placed on tie down for it. Reward your dog for not jumping when you approach and soon your dog will choose to sit or keep all paws on the floor for attention.

Unlike a crate, a tie down can be used as a punishment for unwanted behavior like nipping, jumping up or chasing the cat. Remember to reward your dog highly on tie down for not nipping or reacting to the cat. If you are petting your dog and he nips, walk away. Your dog just learned that nipping made you leave, when all he wanted to do was to play with you.

You only praise or talk to your dog on tie down when he is quiet. Like crate training, don't let your dog off tie down if he is barking, whining or carrying on. Wait until he is quiet and sitting or lying down before you let him off.

It is a good tool for potty training too. It can be used in conjunction with crate training. Having your dog on tie down is just like having him in a crate, but it gives him a different view and more variety. Just be sure to take your dog outside frequently to relieve himself.

It's also a great tool to use when you have a cat that needs to be introduced to your dog. When the dog is on tie down and sees the cat from across the room, and remains calm, he gets a treat. The cat also gets a treat for looking at the dog. It allows your cat to feel safe and you to feel confident that your dog can't run after your cat.

You can teach quiet to your dog on tie down too. Start easy with your dog on tie down and you very close to your dog, but not touching him. Reward your dog with a food reward for being calm and quiet. Slowly add distance from your dog and reward calm and quiet. If your dog barks on tie down, say quiet, and then immediately reward your dog being quiet. Build on the time interval that your dog stays quiet. Use your door bell. Ring it and ignore your dog until the second they are quiet. Pretty soon they learn better things come to me for being quiet and barking at the door bell loses all it's spark.

When petting your dog on tie down, if your dog jumps on you, or is mouthy, or starts barking, just walk away from him. He'll get the idea that he must have done something wrong and that's why you went away. Come back to him when he quiet and start petting again.

It won't be long before your dog figures out that every time he is calm you give him attention. Your dog will soon default to lying down and being calm on tie down because he'll want the attention and reward. For example, if you came to work 10 minutes early one day and your boss paid you \$1,000, it wouldn't take you too long to figure out that coming to work 10 minutes early is worth the reward.

Tie downs can be used for counter conditioning too. For example, your dog barks like crazy when new people walk into the house. For this behavior, put your dog on tie down before you answer the door. IGNORE the dog completely if he is barking or whining. When he is quiet praise him and throw him a treat. Also have the new person toss him a treat. Eventually, if this is done on a consistent basis your dog will behave nicely when new people come to the house. Practice ahead of time with just you ringing the doorbell and gradually increase the excitement level. Putting your dog on tie down for the first time when a bunch of guests are coming over is not advised. Your dog needs to practice first and build to that level of distraction.

It's a great management tool if you have children and/or multiple tasks to do around the house when you can't always keep an eye out on your dog. Dogs can chew up things very quickly, if left to their own devices. The tie down keeps him in check. Always give your dog good toys and chew things on tie down.

It's also nice to use the tie down at dinnertime. It allows your family to have a nice meal without the dog nudging you or begging for food. Just place him on tie down with a nice toy or bone before you sit to eat. Remember to praise him for being quiet and laying down during dinner.

Dogs like to chew things. So if your dog chews, use a cable or chain tie down. If that isn't an option, you can put "Bitter Apple" on an old leash or rope to deter your dog from chewing it. "Bitter Apple" is a bitter tasting product available in most pet stores.

REMEMBER: ONLY use a tie down when you are home and ONLY use it on your dog's flat collar or harness.