



## USING A HOUSE LINE

The house line is a useful way of exerting control over your dog safely and without using force or using direct physical contact/attention. It is a method of training and should not be used as a long term solution to a behaviour problem.

Times when you may need to use a house line include:

- 🐾 Removing the dog from furniture/bed.
- 🐾 Moving the dog away from or out of the way of something.
- 🐾 To control the dogs movements safely.
- 🐾 To move the dog without reinforcing attention seeking behaviour.

A houseline can be purchased from some pet stores but they can be home made. They should be approximately 3 meters long and made of fine rope, cord or a plastic coated steel washing line can be used. This type of material is less likely to become tangled up in furniture and is difficult to chew. It is then attached to the collar (not a choker) with a normal leash clip. The houseline is then fixed to the collar at all times when you can supervise him/her.

**NEVER** use a houseline when the dog is alone.

The houseline reduces the need to grab the dog or push them around which can be quite threatening. It also reduces conflict and for dogs that seek attention provides you with a means of controlling them without making any direct contact.

**The correct use of a houseline is as follows:**

1. Take up the end of the houseline avoiding eye contact.
2. Turn around and walk away from your dog but do not pull or yank it.
3. Call your dog and give a simple command that you want him/her to obey. For example: 'Holly, off' if you want the dog to get off the furniture or 'away' if you need them to come away from something. Use a calm tone of voice at all times.
4. When your dog obeys the command, give immediate praise (food treat etc).
5. If the dog disobeys, repeat the request, still using a calm tone and act in a relaxed manner.
6. If the dog fails to respond, the line is now tensed and a couple of gentle tugs are used to dislodge the dog, giving the command so that he/she can associate the command with the action.
7. Reward the dog for the desired response.

It is important to ensure that you do not turn to look at your dog (even if they are reluctant to move) until the dog performs the desired behaviour and the reward is being given. Pulling at the dog whilst staring at him/her can be very challenging and some dogs will take this as a direct threat and may become aggressive/fearful.



## USING A HOUSE LINE (CONTINUED)

Try and remain calm and emotionless throughout this training and if the dog does not respond do not allow your voice to get louder or threatening. To avoid injury or inducing a fear response, be gentle but persistent when pulling on the line. The aim is to teach the dog that resistance to your command is pointless but the line should not be associated with pain or appear threatening.

It is not uncommon for dogs to resist the houseline in the early stages of training but it is uncommon to see aggression. If you do experience this, stop using the houseline and contact me immediately.

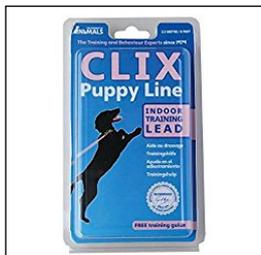
**PLEASE NOTE:** House lines should not be used on dogs with neck injuries or arthritic changes in their joints.

### Recommended Products:



#### [CLIX House Line 2.5m](#)

[£2.66 \(as of October 2017\)](#)



#### [Clix Puppy House Line 2.5m](#)

[£6.94 \(as of October 2017\)](#)

For specific help with a behaviour problem please contact me:



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