

Mouse is a sweet girl with a lot of personality and plenty of love to go around! She gets excited about walks, however she has little interest in listening to her human counterparts when it comes to obedience on a leash!

Practice good gate entry with mouse and you will get to enjoy her sweetness without any frustration at all! She will patiently wait for you to enter, and if you would like, she will happily love on you while sitting on her porch!

Mouse needs help learning how to work with people on recalls and the leash. Although she is food motivated, she will lose some interest in your commands once she spots a leash.

Our first goal should be to get Mouse comfortable with recalls. By getting her to sit and then stepping back 3-4 steps and calling her name, then giving her a treat when she comes, she will quickly learn that her name is a good thing, and approaching people when called is even better! If you already know mouse, or once you get to know her, only reward the recalls that require 1 request, or that occur in 3 seconds or less. Once she is comfortable following you around the enclosure, move on to the next lesson!

Mouse is a wonderfully sweet dog that loses her attention when you get her on the leash. To help her learn that the leash is also a good part of human interactions, we need to reinforce her better behavior. We want to first remind her that it does not mean she gains control. Once Mouse is consistent with you on recalls, get her to sit, and put her leash on her (she has a tendency to run away and sit by her gate, do not leash her at the gate, that will reinforce a learned behavior that we want to eliminate). If she runs to the gate, then this is a great opportunity to test the level of trust that she has with you. Call her back and get her to sit, praise her recall with plenty of love (treats if it is the first time she comes from the gate) and then 3 steps backwards, get her to come and sit, and try once more.

****Do Not Walk Mouse Outside Of Enclosure Until She Learns To Sit For The Leash AWAY From Her Gate****

*******Sometimes dogs have off days, just like people do. If Mouse has been really good about her recalls, you have had the opportunity to love on her and she is attentive to your commands, it can be acceptable to leash her at the gate and get her to walk beside you in the enclosure. After 2-3 walk and sit routines, take the leash off, and see if she will stay in place in the enclosure for you to leash her.

Now that we have her leashed, lets go for a walk! But wait! We aren't ready to leave the enclosure! Mouse is great on a leash (usually) up until she has to go back home! This is an issue of recall obedience and Mouse's ability to focus on humans above all other environmental factors. Mouse will better understand her two legged friends, if we first reinforce our relationships in a comfortable environment. Walk Mouse around her pen, every 25-30 steps, stop and get her to sit, then walk some more! This routine reinforces obedience, recall, and her attraction to her human companions. Whether it is for five minutes or 25 minutes, this exercise is plenty of work for Mouse, it is very enriching, and she will earn plenty of your affection and maybe even earn some treats!

Once Mouse comes to you on command, she willingly allows you to leash her, and she walks around her enclosure without stopping and waiting or trying to lead you to her gate, then you may move to out of enclosure walks.***

Understand that when you transition to beyond the gate, her behavior is likely to change and may revert to some of the more stubborn behaviors she has practiced previously, this is normal, and should be easier to manage now that she loves and adores you!

On your walks outside of the enclosure, it is important to let her sniff and mark is she wants to, but to do so in a controlled way. If she refuses to follow leash commands, then back up opposite the direction you intend to go, get her to come and sit, then try to move forward.

Every 25-30 steps, get Mouse to sit, five, or lay down, then continue with your walk. If you have the recall consistency with Mouse and feel that she will allow you to leash her whenever you need to, you should take the opportunity to let her roam the ring pen and practice *recall reinforcement and good play behavior* (video to come on this)

By the end of the month, if we are all consistent with her, we should see a cute girl with a big personality, who loves to shake your hand and walks like a princess on her leash!