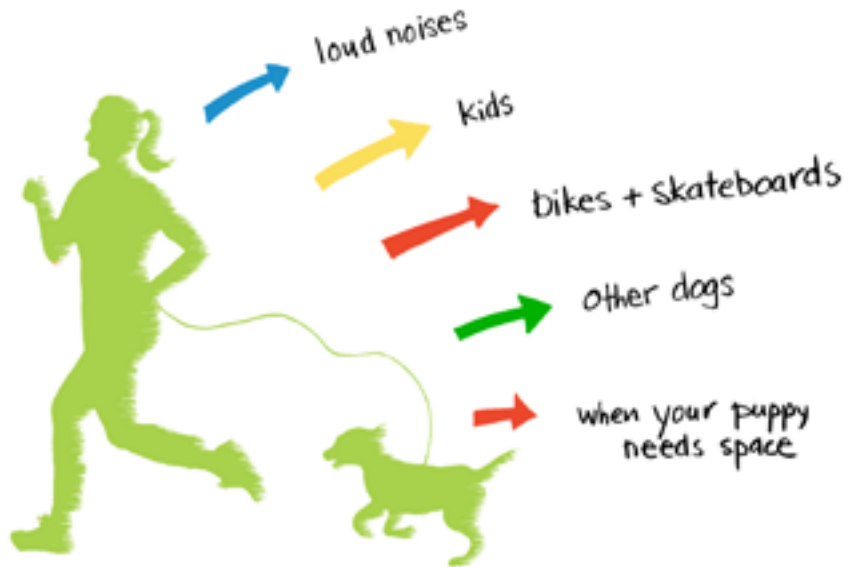


LET'S SKEDADDLE

Before venturing out to explore the world, ensure you have taught your pup *Skedaddle*. This way, if they encounter something or someone that makes them uneasy, they will have a reliable skill to regain their comfort.

Escape routes can include driveways, walkways, nearby open space, or crossing the street (if safe).

See [step-by-step how-to on flip side](#).



Goal

Your puppy, adolescent and later adult dog can confidently retreat to a safe distance with reduced stress when necessary.

The skill to teach is simply moving away from whatever it is in the environment they need distance from, and to do so with as little stress as possible.

To effectively teach this skill it should be linked to positive experiences for your puppy. You will create these experiences with happy chatter, food and games. Happy chatter involves enthusiastically cheering on your pup, and praising their bravery.

Track you progress

My puppy's confidence or ability to navigate and move calmly is improving.

My puppy is learning to disengage from exciting things.

This needs more practice

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| loud noises | someone in a wheelchair | Notes: |
| kids | visitors to your home | _____ |
| bikes and skateboards | vacumn cleaning | _____ |
| other dogs | your puppy needs space | _____ |



STEPS TO TEACH SKEDADDLE

1. Say *Skedaddle* and feed your pup a treat.
Repeat 5 times.
2. Say *Skedaddle* and move away a step or two, feed your pup a treat when they catch up with you. Repeat 5 times.
3. Say *Skedaddle* and move away 10 feet, feed your pup a treat when they catch up with you.

As your pup gets the hang of it you could also include a game of *Tug* or toss a toy into the mix too. Be creative. Repeat a couple of times.

Where to practice

1. Practice at home with no distractions.
2. Practice outside with no distractions.
3. Practice outside with things in the environment that your pup appears **comfortable** with.
4. Practice outside with things in the environment that your pup appears **uncomfortable** with.
5. As you and your pup get proficient with the game continue to practice regularly so that when your pup needs to rely on it, the skill is sharp.

Examples of when it's useful

- If your puppy appears uncomfortable around someone or something.
- If your puppy is excited and trying to jump on a person or other animal (dog, cat).
- If *you* need a breather and distance so it becomes easier for you to manage your puppy.
- When distance from anything seems like it makes sense.

Leash and long line length

A long line ranging from 8 to 15 feet whenever possible, can simplify life. If you opt for a 6-foot leash, ensure that you move along with your puppy to prevent them from reaching the end of the leash and feeling confined.

