

The whole concept of tethering is to teach a Griff that it is okay to be a Velcro dog. A Griff has this need but a mill dog doesn't know what to do with this need. He has been so ill treated or ignored by humans that he has suppressed this need -- this desire -- until he can ignore it. Now he wants to express it again, but doesn't know how.

With tethering, you are allowing him to learn how wonderful it is to be with a human. You are giving him the opportunity to learn that it is okay to trust again. By the same token, with tethering, he has no opportunity to run away. He must stay with you -- therefore you cannot violate his new found trust.

Soft voices, praise, talking to the Griff often, telling him what you are doing, telling him in the words you will be using with him every day: go potty, sit, good boy, Come, etc. Don't use baby talk under any circumstances, but use lots of conversation: let's go for a walk, did you have a nice nap? So he learns the nuances of your voice. Make this a very pleasant experience for your Griff. Touching the Griff and scratches behind the ear while you are talking to him will help create a bond quickly.

Griffs are very much hands-on dogs. Most mill dogs do not like your hand coming "down" on their head so be sure your hand comes "up" to their chin where they can see the movement and then you can work around to their ears from there.

This really works. I use it on every mill dog that comes into my house. It will make house training a breeze and will make socialization 100 times easier. Plus it will keep the Griff from running away. It works just as well with a halter as with a collar.

this is how I handle a mill dog:

Tether the dog to you as you move about the house. I just use a regular leash and hold it in my hand or slip it over my wrist. If I need both hands for a task I put the leash under a chair leg or hook it on a door or drawer handle.

In the bathroom, the leash is hooked on a drawer handle. The same in the kitchen. In the dining room, the leash is under my chair leg. The dog is never more than the length of the leash from me. The leash is on the dog 24/7 except when the dog is in his crate or in bed with me.

If the dog must follow you everywhere, all day long, he will quickly learn YOU are the boss, along with allowing you to quickly correct him if he shows signs of unwelcome behavior or the need to relieve himself. I do this for 4 weeks minimum.

At the end of the 4 weeks, I look at The Nothing In Life Is Free (NILIF) program: <http://www.ddfl.org/behavior/nilif.pdf>, It's short & easy to understand and takes your foster to the next level.

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