

**"ASK Nanny Fran" Article**  
**Tropical Breeze - May 2004**

Question: I called a trainer and told her that I wanted to train my dog to walk off the leash. She said no. Why?

Answer: Canine behaviorist, Dr. Nicholas Dodman, states that every dog is hard-wired (instinctual behavior that cannot be removed) to bolt for a bird squirrel, rabbit, cat, etc. No amount of training will EVER override these instinctual behaviors. Moreover, why would you want to play Russian Roulette with your dog's life? Any dog off lead is a dead dog. It is only a matter of time AND YOU will be responsible for that death.

Leash laws are in place to SAVE YOUR DOG'S LIFE!!! No other reason. Any loose dog bounding up to me and my dog scares me witless. I run, race walk, sprout wings and fly in the opposite direction as quickly as possible. Any dog AT ANY TIME can develop an instant dislike for another dog. Dog bite = lawsuit = thousands of dollars AND you could lose your home, car, life savings, etc. Your dog will be euthanized.

50% of dogs DO NOT LIKE OTHER DOGS. It is a fallacy to think that all dogs like all other dogs. I have never and will never open my front door without the leash on my dog. I will never open the car door to exit with my dog without the leash on my dog. If you love it you leash it!!! If you love something you PROTECT it and never, ever take unnecessary chances. In my entire life, including professional pet sitting, "oops" has NEVER HAPPENED. I have never lost any animal. I honor and cherish them much too much to EVER do anything that might bring them harm. I have saved countless dogs I was walking from being attacked by other loose dogs. Thoughtless owners are NOT appreciated.