



Action & Distraction • Week 4

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Reminder

Bring your Lucky Bones for our graduation raffle next week. Also, be ready to showcase something your dog worked on during this class (ie stay).

Sit & Down at a Distance

Teach your dog to sit/down at a distance from you for added control and safety.

Tether your leash to something stationary or have your dog stay. Take a step away from your dog and cue a sit/down. Say “yes” return to your dog and reward. Repeat until your dog is consistently successful. Now try working two steps away from your dog. Continue building distance as your dog is successful.

*If your dog does not sit/down within a second of your cue, QUICKLY return to your dog and help him out with a hand signal. Do not reward him with a treat after he sits/downs. Praise him and then try standing one step away as you try again. If he gets it right, say “yes” and reward. Continue to build distance.

Recalls

It’s time to build more distraction and distance into your recalls! Try the following exercises:

Begin to practice some recalls with your dog off-leash in safely fenced areas. Wait for a moment where your dog is mildly distracted, go right up to him, say his name, now quickly back/dash away as you say “come!” When he arrives in front of you, tell him to sit, say “yes” and reward. Now use your release word and allow him some freedom again.

As he proves successful at this stage, try incorporating some distance. Stand a few feet from your dog and say his name. If he turns toward you, back/dash away as you say “come!” Build distance incrementally.

Touch

Teach your dog another behavior that can help with recall, heel, placement and focus! Hold a treat in your hand behind your back. Open your other hand with fingers pointing toward the floor and present to your dog. Any interest from your dog (a glance, movement towards, and ultimately touching nose to hand) should be marked with “yes” and a treat. Make sure your hand is held stationary.

Goal for this week

Your dog will sit/down at a short distance from you with minimal distractions. He responds to come with an increase in distraction and distance.