



## Beginning Homework • Week 1

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### Incorporate practice into your day!

It's better to practice for several short sessions daily. These practice sessions help maintain your dog's progress, retention and interest. Long sessions can burn everyone out. Each time you interact with your dog (meal time, walks, playtime, putting the leash on, going outside, etc) is a great opportunity to do some training. As a result, your dog will learn how to behave appropriately in many situations. In addition, always end your sessions on a successful note. Your dog will progress in his learning at a quicker rate.

### Easy

**Teach your dog to take food gently from your hand.**

- Hold a piece of dog food within your fist. Say "easy" and hold it in front of your dog. When he uses gentle pressure with his mouth say "yes" and give him the food.
- If, however, he uses his teeth, say "ouch" and remove your treat hand. Wait a few seconds and try again.

### Name Recognition

**Teach your dog to check in with you when you say his name.** This will make it much easier to get your dog's attention for a come, sit, etc. To teach your dog his name:

- Pair your dog's name with a treat. Stand close to your dog. Say your dog's name one time, say "yes" and treat. When it seems your dog is starting to pay close attention when you say his name, try building a little distance. Say your dog's name from a foot away, say "yes" and treat.
- Build distance incrementally.
- If your dog isn't succeeding, use your treat to lure the head turn or tap your dog's hip. You could also move farther from the distraction.

### Sit

**Lure dog into sitting position.** To do this, say "sit," place treat hand in front of dog's nose. Now move hand up over dogs head. When dog sits, say "yes" and treat. Get rid of the lure (treat in hand) as quickly as possible, but still say "yes" and treat the dog from your pouch/pocket for getting it right.

### Watch

**Teach your dog to pay attention to you.** Start out by showing the treat to the dog, say "watch" and bring the treat up to your eye level. When your dog makes eye contact, say "yes" and treat. Build duration as you get success.

- Use your facial expression and voice tone to communicate when your dog is successful.

*(continued on back)*

## Come (Recall)

**Teach your dog to quickly come to you and stop.** Start with the dog on a 4-6ft leash. Gather up excess leash so he doesn't trip. Say "come!" Move backwards quickly with hands and treat at dog's nose level. When he arrives in front of you, say "yes and treat. Write down ten different places you practice this, bring to class next week and receive 5 Lucky Bones!

### ***Tips for a successful recall:***

- Always call your dog for something positive (treats, toys games)
- Never call your dog for negative things (ie: go into the crate, get a bath, etc.) Instead just go get him.
- Make it fun!
- Only call your dog when you can guarantee it will happen (ie: when dog is on leash/inside the house).

## Collar Work

**Every dog should have the basic skill of allowing a person to handle their collar.** This is very important for safety and basic handling of a dog.

Grasp your dog's collar and then feed a treat. Do this several times a day. When your dog looks happy at this level, grasp the collar and use the treat to lure your dog around. This will teach your dog to move with you when you take them by the collar rather than putting on the brakes.

***Please make sure you review the rules and what to bring next week from the Orientation Outline. See you next week!***