



## Beginning Homework • Week 2

Becky Harris, CPDT-KA

### Generalization

Dogs have a difficult time generalizing, especially when it comes to new commands. It can be difficult for a dog to perform a familiar command in a different environment or scenario. For example, when we first teach our dog to sit, they have learned to perform this command by sitting directly in front of us. When we expect our dogs to sit by our side, (perhaps for a heel) most dogs will naturally make the adjustment to sit in front of you. We want our dogs to learn these commands in various contexts. This week, have your dog sit in five different rooms/places. Start easy – this can all be done inside your home!

### Name Game

Remember to only say the name once! Begin gradually adding distractions.

### Watch

At this point the lure should be completely gone for short eye contact. Remember to test the lure method by holding a treat out to the side and say, “Watch.”

### Sit

Add a visual command with ‘sit’ if you haven’t already done so. This will help decrease the use of a treat lure.

### Down

To teach our dogs how to lie down, the sit must be completely solid. From a sit position, hold the treat in front of the dog’s nose and slowly lure into the down position. If your dog does not immediately drop into position, “Yes” and treat for every correct movement toward the final command.

***TIP: Make sure to provide a jackpot when your dog finally offers the position!***

### Jumping Up on Handler

Consistency! Make sure you supervise your dog with every greeting. Inform anyone that wants to pet your dog that they are in training! If your dog jumps up on you, “Act Like a Tree” by turning your back and simply ignoring the behavior.

### Loose Leash Walking

“Stop and Go” technique: Take a step forward when there is slack in the leash, plant your feet and stop when there is tension. Use treats to help create slack and continue to walk. You may need to begin this by taking one step first, then two steps and so on.

***TIP: Lock and Load with treats!! Don’t catch yourself without a treat!***

## Come/Recall

Now that our dogs are familiar with the verbal command, “Come” we can begin adding more excitement. Have a buddy hold your dog’s leash. Start close to your dog, say “Come” and take several steps back. Begin adding distance by turning away and running from your dog. Allowing your dog to chase you makes for a more exciting and successful recall! Practice this activity on your own whenever your dog is distracted; otherwise utilize a buddy when you can!

- Practice this activity inside first, and then try it in your backyard!
- When your dog has reached you, immediately praise and reward them.
- Repeat the activity, but this time start a couple feet away from your dog before you cue your dog to come.

***TIP: If your dog is fast and your buddy can’t keep up on leash, try the activity with a longer lead.***

## Rewards

To help eliminate the lure with commands, try introducing a different reward in place of a treat. Explore all the possibilities out there! Remember, they must LOVE the reward. Fill out the rewards chart and bring it with you to class next week! You will receive 5 Lucky Bones for the completion of the chart! You can also bring these items to class with you as long as they are appropriate and non-distracting for the other dogs in class!

Food	Toys	Interactions With You	Natural Jackpots
1)	1)	1)	1)
2)	2)	2)	2)
3)	3)	3)	3)