



Beginning Homework • Week 2

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Watch (Harder)

Put that lure away! Once you can lure your dog's eyes to yours, try it without using a treat. You can help him out by making your hand smell like treats and using the same hand signal you would use if you did have a treat in your hand. Once he watches you say "yes" and reach into your treat pouch to give him a treat. This is a great way to introduce that fact that you do not have to have a treat in your hand for him to receive one.

Goal: My dog will watch me without luring him with a treat.

Down

Teach your dog to lay down with the same lure and reward methods we have been using. When your dog is in a sit, put the treat in front of his nose and lure his nose straight down to his toes. As soon as his elbows hit the ground say "yes" and reward. If your dog's backend pops up just put him back in a sit and try again. If you are still having trouble try the "under the leg" technique. While sitting on the ground, place one leg in an archway position in front of you and try luring your dog through the "tunnel". Be sure to give him treats as he goes through or make a little trail of treats for him to get himself. Be sure your archway is not too high and that you do not move your leg while he's under it.

Goal: My dog will lie down using a lure when asked by a guest.

Stand

Teaching your dog to stand is a great way to dry off his paws (we do live in rain country!) or to help out while he's at the vet. Teach him by placing a treat at nose level while he is in a sit and lure him straight out, parallel to the ground. Once he is standing say "yes" and treat him. Be sure the treat is not too high so he doesn't get confused with sit, or too low or he may end up bowing. Now try from a down and lure him in a diagonal upwards motion.

Goal: My dog will stand using a lure when asked by a guest.

Verbal Cues and Hand Signals

Once your dog is reliably following treats, you can now teach him a verbal cue and/or hand signal. If you want your dog to lay down say "down," wait one second, and then show him with your hand signal. By putting the new cue in front of the old one, and waiting one second, he will start guessing what you want with enough repetition. If he gets it right make a big deal and give him numerous small treats.

Goal: My dog can sit on a verbal cue and down using a hand signal.

Release Word

Using a release word is a great way to let your dog know that he is finished with the exercise. It helps him realize when it is ok to no longer be sitting or laying down so he learns self control and doesn't end up moving before he was supposed to. Pick a word like "break", "free", "release", or "all done" and start using after he is no longer required to continue the current task. This will help you out later when we introduce stay.

Goal: I have my word picked out and my dog responds to it.

Come (Recalls)

By now your dog should be coming when called when you are in the house, and if not keep practicing. With a friend or family member try calling him back and forth in different locations. Be sure you are using the same yummy treats and be sure to reward him every time he gets it right. You cannot practice this enough! It may save his life one day! Try keeping a container full of treats in different locations in your house and around your property, so the rewards are unexpected and exciting. Furthermore, remember the rules: only use the word "come" if you are 99% positive he will listen, do not call him for anything negative, and be sure you are always happy when he does come to you, even if you have been chasing him all around the neighborhood!

Goal: My dog can come when called in the yard, on a leash, with minimal distraction.

Close

Teaching your dog to walk with you on a loose leash takes a lot of practice, but is very rewarding. Having your dog stroll along side of you instead of pulling you down the street usually means he will be able to go more places with you, and be more active in your life. Teach him by first getting his attention and shortening up on the leash (be sure he still has enough leash to have slack in it) and firmly plant it on your hip. Once he is watching you, take one step. If your dog is still with you deliver a treat to him right against your leg. Repeat. Slowly build up to two steps, then three, and start randomly changing directions to encourage him to keep focusing on you. If at any point your dog gets ahead and starts to pull, stop, or go in the opposite direction so he learns pulling you just won't work. If you never take a step again on a tight leash your dog will catch on that he won't make it where he wants to go unless he is staying with you. Help him out by exercising him first and practicing in a non-distracting environment. Be sure to praise him a ton and dish out a lot of treats! Frustrated? Ask about a gentle leader head harness or a body harness.

Goal: My dog can take 10 steps in the house on a loose leash.

Handling and Restraint

Spend time touching and handling your dog everywhere on his body to ensure that he is comfortable and relaxed about it. Your dog should be comfortable being handled when he is healthy so he will let you help him if he is hurt. Once a day, sit down with your dog, bring some treats, and start with long strokes down his body. Pick up his paw and treat him, look in his ear and treat him, pick up his tail and treat him. Be relaxed and tell him how good he is. Your vet will thank you for this one!

Bring your homework back next week with all the goals checked off and receive five extra Lucky Bones!