



Beginning Homework • Week 2

Take the show on the road!

Practice with your dog every time you take your dog out. The more your dog practices in a variety of locations the better he will get! Dogs that only practice at home, often have a hard time in new or exciting locations.

Sit/Watch

Your dog should now sit/watch at home without a lure (treat in hand). Start using a variety of life rewards to keep your dog guessing and playing the training game. Write down ten life rewards (besides food) you use during the week, bring it to class next week and receive 5 Lucky Bones.

Name Recognition

Add some distraction into your practice. Whenever you add distraction, you may need to start with distraction at a low intensity and then gradually increase it.

Put your dog on leash. Put a few pieces of your dog's food on the ground a few feet from your dog's nose. Say your dog's name. When he turns away from the food and glances at you, say "yes" and treat (from your hand). As he becomes proficient, let him get a bit closer to the dog food and repeat the exercise. You can reward the dog at the end of a successful practice session by saying "take it" and letting him eat the dog food on the ground.

Tips:

- Avoid repeating your dog's name.
- If your dog does not immediately turn toward you, use your lure, or lightly tap his hip to get his attention.

Close (walking on a loose leash)

Give your dog a set length of leash. Hold your end of the leash firmly near your waist. Stand still and wait for some attention from your dog and slack in the leash. Say "yes" and treat. Now take one step forward, say "yes" and treat. Take two steps, say "yes" and treat. Continue adding steps as your dog is successful. With practice and consistency, your dog will learn a loose leash = go and a tight leash = stop.

Down

Start with dog in sit position. Say "down." Place treat hand in front of your dog's nose and lure him into down position by moving your hand down to the floor. Say "yes" and treat.

Once your dog is successful at this stage, practice without a lure in your hand. Say "down" followed by the hand signal. As soon as your dog is in the down position, say "yes" and treat.

Now build some time your dog remains in a down. You'll simply delay the treat. Say "down," count two to three seconds, say "yes" and treat. Build time incrementally.

Come (recall)

Set your dog up to be successful EVERY time! If you say “come” and your dog doesn’t do it, you are quickly training your dog not to come. Make sure you follow through in your training every time. And remember, coming should always be great fun for your dog. Get that tail wagging!

NEW: This week, add a sit at the end of your dog’s recall. Say “come”. When he arrives in front of you, say “sit”, accompanied by your hand signal, then say “yes” and treat.

- Get a partner and practice calling your dog back and forth. Each person uses an enthusiastic tone and rewards the dog for coming to them.
- Practice calling your dog while on a walk. When your dog is paying attention to you call him to come and then reward. Also, practice calling your dog to come when you see him get a bit distracted.
- Run away from your dog and call him to chase after you (in a non-distracting environment to start). Dogs love this one!
- Remember to mix it up! Avoid just practicing one way or always using the same treats. Using a variety of exciting rewards and recall games will keep your dog interested.