



Beginning Homework • Week 2

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Off

Dogs want to be noticed. So touch, talk, look, and smile at him when his feet are on the ground. When he jumps up, abruptly turn and look away, pick your hands up and be quiet. Stand on his leash so he stops himself if he's really wild.

Settle

Looking for your dog's body to be still and in a Sit or Down. This is not a formal position or stay, but getting your dog to realize its possible to stay in his own skin, relax and be calm.

Look, stroke slowly, smile and speak soothingly. Name it. "Good settle." You can also say "Yes" and Treat this. At first, you'll need to reinforce almost constantly in distracting or new situations. As you notice your dog responding to your reinforcement, start adding pauses for a few seconds and gradually build from there.

Beware of going too long and having your dog give up and look elsewhere for attention or fun.

(It also helps to have a chewy or a toy for your dog to amuse himself with during these times you want him to relax.)

Sit. Down. Stand.

Don't name each until he's doing it reliably. Lure for position. Say "Yes" and Treat. Try to repeat one position a few times. Use your release word (Break", "Free" etc.) at the end of that behavior and play. Start with each position separately, then start linking them together two at a time before you treat. After a while, start stringing several together. Remember to reinforce or the behavior will drop off. Practice in several places a day so your dog starts to generalize the behavior.

Recall ("Come")

Add in more steps to your recall. Make sure you have your dog's attention before you call. Sometimes attract your dog any way possible that's fun. When he's right in front of you, say "Yes" and Treat, play with a toy, or pet and praise.

Practice first in the one room, then another. Then practice outside in your yard- on leash. Don't trust your dog to come when he's only just learning it and hasn't had any distractions yet. He's not ready to come to you at the park.

NEVER call your dog for anything negative! Not to be put in the puppy pen, not for a bath, not because of the hole he dug, not to come away from the dead squirrel he's rolling in, nothing.

DO call him for life rewards. For supper, to show him something he likes, to give him a treat or a chewy, to play with him or go for a walk. See if several friends or family members can call him back and forth. Keep track of how many feet away you're calling him from. Keep it short.

*****Extra credit game. Call back & Forth*****

You can teach your dog the names of family and friends.

Tell your dog "Go to ... (fill in the blank – Mom, Dad, Buddy, Sissy etc.)" Then have that person call your dog. Let that person attract them with a treat or clapping, running etc.

That person rewards the dog and then sends them to the next person.

For the people your dog doesn't need to know the names of, just say, "Go say Hi." That means whomever I designate is okay and to go to/with them. (Make sure that person really is okay before sending your dog to them.)

Loose Leash Walking (Close)

Criteria for Close to be good enough to reinforce is:

- Your dog is touching the ground with all four feet.
- He is balanced and not leaning.
- He is next to you – not in front.
- There is slack in the leash.

Your job is to have a set amount of leash, your hand steady against your hip. Be ready to reinforce when he's right and to absolutely not move if he is wrong.

Start off with a Sit and a Watch. If He can't pay any attention to you not moving, it's not going to get any better when you are. Mark it, reinforce and begin. Say "Yes" and treat or move forward when your dog is next to you in a balanced, even position.

****Close-Game One** – Moving sit.** Use it as a speed bump. Lure and sit him here. Say "Yes" and treat. Lure and sit him there. Say "Yes" and treat.

****Close-Game Two** – Tag.** Pay attention to him, play a little and then step off. Say "Yes" and treat if he keeps slack in the leash and his head passes the side of your leg. Take another step in a different direction. How's it going? Say "Yes" and treat again.

If he runs to the end of the leash, stop! Now you can either quietly wait for him or walk backwards. He has to get back to paying attention to you on the slack leash and mostly in position to get you to start again. Play with him, petting and talking nice for a couple seconds before starting again. Then go back to saying "Yes" and treating for each step.

Play Retrieve

You and your dog play with toys together. Be proud of him and pet him while he's holding a toy. Then trade a treat or another toy to get him to release the one in his mouth. Use your level of activity and enthusiasm to convey what parts of his play you like. Stop the game /become stoic if it's out of control.

Play on a leash or in a small room or the hallway if he has a tendency to run away with the toy. If your dog tries teasing you with the toy to get you to chase him, ignore him and play with your own toy. When he gets bored and drops his toy, become happy and animated again and throw the toy you had for him. While he's getting that toy, take the first one and get ready to play again.

Once your dog has some interest, see if your dog will do his sit for the toy a couple of times in the middle of the game. After that, add downs, then multiple push-ups (sit-downs) for the toy.