



## Beginning Homework • Week 3

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### Rewards are Everywhere

When we introduce new behaviors to our dogs, we use food because it is quick and easy. As your dog has a better understanding of what you are asking, try using life rewards instead of treats! Ask him to lie down while you're delivering his meal, ask him to sit before you open the door for him to go outside, try making him watch you before giving him a toy. Figure out what is rewarding for him and use it in everyday situations!

**Goal:** My dog can sit while I clip on his leash.

### Sit for Attention

Teach your dog to sit when he is greeted by people, rather than jumping on them. If your dog jumps up on you say "off" and turn your back to him. Resist the urge to use your hands to correct him as any attention will be rewarding to him. Giving him the cold shoulder is a clear message that jumping equals no attention. Once he does have his paws on the ground turn around and reward him. Try again and this time wait until he offers a sit before rewarding him. Try to get as many people as you can to try this and explain the rules to them first. This should help your dog understand that if he wants attention he needs to be sitting calmly.

**Goal:** My dog has met three new people without jumping on them while on leash.

### Loose Leash Walking

Keep up the practice! This will definitely pay off! Stopping or changing directions every time the leash gets tight sends him a clear message that pulling you will not get him where he wants to go. Only by staying with you he will be able to get where he wants. Try practicing by using a toy or treat on the ground. Make sure he sees it and try moving towards it. If the leash gets tight say "uh-uh" and QUICKY turn around and take some penalty steps away for it. Timing is important! Try again, if he makes it there without pulling let him have the treat or play with the toy with him.

**Goal:** My dog can approach a dog he knows on a loose leash.

### Come (Recalls)

Turn your recall practice into fun and exciting games! Try hiding around the house or yard and calling him. This uses his natural instinct to track you down and helps him check in with you more in case you disappear on him. When he finds you, have treats or a toy ready and be super exciting. Your dog will appreciate your enthusiasm!

**Goal:** I can hide in my yard and my dog tries to find me.

### Stay (Using Duration)

Teaching your dog to stay is broken into three parts: duration, distraction, and distance. Practice them separately, starting with duration. Ask your dog to sit and give him the hand signal for stay. While he is watching you smile at him and tell him how good he is then say "yes", give him a treat, and release him.

Try again this time waiting two more seconds before rewarding and releasing. As you can see, the building blocks for stay are prolonged sits and downs. It is important that you do not push your dog beyond his limits or he will not be confident about what he is doing. Be sure to always release before he gets up.

**Goal:** My dog can sit stay for 10 seconds and down stay for 5 seconds.

### Leave-it (Part One)

Teaching your dog to leave something he wants helps him learn self control. Practice this exercise by placing a low value treat in your enclosed fist and a better treat in your other hand behind your back. Show him the treat in your fist and ask him to “leave-it”. Be sure you say the word only once. Wait for your dog’s paws, tongue, and nose to come off of your fist, say “yes”, and reward with the better treat. Timing is important! At first your dog only has to leave the treat for a brief second, and then start to wait for some eye contact from him before he is rewarded. You can also reward him with the treat in your fist as he gets better. Use your release word or say “take-it” when he is allowed the treat. Is your dog catching on? Try slowly uncovering the treat and asking him to leave-it!

**Goal:** My dog can leave an uncovered treat in my hand.

### Tricks!

Your dog can be the star of the neighborhood! Teaching your dog tricks is a great bonding experience and an excellent way to show off his training. Use the lure and reward methods to show him how to roll over, sit pretty, play dead, crawl, shake, and many more. At graduation you must show off a new trick in order to graduate! Ask us for suggestions on how to teach them.

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