



Beginning Homework • Week 3

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Sit and Watch/Stay

Add Duration of time to your sit and watch. That becomes your Stay. Work for a few seconds longer with a lot of reinforcement for those lengths. If the behavior starts falling apart, it's because you asked for too much and now he isn't sure what you want. Use your release word at the end of each of these small stays, encourage him onto his feet and play a little with him.

During this practice, keep your leash a little short so if he does break position, the leash will stop him before he gets too far. Facial expression will help with all your practice with your dog. If he gets up, say "uh-oh" and show him how to fix it. Get the "watch" before you reinforce. Later, he will have to do it himself and make no mistake to get reinforcement.

Use this "sit-stay" when you pet your dog, when you put on his leash, before you open a door, before you set his dinner down, before you throw the toy. These are life rewards that start giving some relevance to what we're working on.

Down Stay

First you will want to work on to standing up straight while your dog is down. Say "Yes" and treat while you're down with your dog. Next get up just a few inches by straightening your knees. "Yes" and treat. Repeat until you can get all the way up. Be sure to release and play several times to keep the time low.

Leave It (Turn and move away from "it") – Part 1

Hold a morsel of food or a toy in your fist in front of your dog's nose. Say "Leave it." When the dog takes his nose off your hand, say ""Yes" and "Take it" and give him what's in your hand. Next do the same but count one to yourself. Good dog. Say "Yes" Treat. Again. Count one, two. Say "Yes" and treat. Good dog. Switch hands. Gradually lengthen the time. This is stage one of this exercise.

Recall (Come)

****Restrained recall** – Do a crazy rev-up game.**

Practice calling your dog with a friend. Only the person calling is exciting. The leash holder is quiet. Show your dog a great treat or toy. Tossle his hair.

Entice him. "Look what I have! Ready, ready?" When your dog is super-excited and looking at you, say "Name, Come!" and run away from him. Say "Name, Come!" only if you are sure you're going to make it happen.

Hand Signal – No Lure Visible

Warm your dog up with a few repetitions of Sit and Down. Then put your lure away into your pouch and do the same motion as when you had the lure. Your dog should do the behavior because all is still the same. When he does, "yes" and quickly get the treat out for him. This is how you continue for the next couple of days. When it's going well, start asking for him to stay a few seconds.

While your dog is coming, be happy, happy, happy and be prepared to reward heavily. Run away from him, then slow down and "land" him in a Sit and watch. Hold his collar gently and say "yes" and treat or pet him several times., then break and play with him. Always have a little celebration with your dog when he comes to you. Practice in a variety of locations, if possible.

Close

Walking toward a goal. A goal can be anything – a gate, a friend, a toy, a piece of food, etc. Set out your goal not too far away. Start with your pup beside you.

- If he runs to the end of the leash, make a No Reward Sound (small noise – like oops!, etc.) before he hits the end of the leash. Stop! Don't reinforce even one step of pulling.
- You can quickly change direction, or You can walk backwards.
- Keep going away from the goal until your dog catches back up to your leg. Then say "Yes" and go forward again.

Every time your dog forges ahead, say your Oops noise and walk away from the goal. When your dog had done a good job, say "Yes" and "Get it" or "Say Hi" or "check it out"- which ever is appropriate.

Do this with a variety of goals and in a variety of places.

Teach Your Dog Tricks

Why? Its fun, good mental exercise, and builds positive attitude and understanding. Many are useful for warming your dog up for exercise. How about sit pretty, shake, bang, crawl, wave, spin or roll over? Try to use shaping and reinforcement to teach it.

Remember to practice in many short sessions with breaks.

Your dog will not learn well if you're always "cramming" for the test by practicing all in one day.

- Are you doing all the training yourself? Start training that family and those friends! Don't just tell them the words- teach them how to teach the dog. Nothing un-trains your dog faster than saying "sit, sit, sit" or "come, come, come" and not showing the dog how to get it right. At best he'll ignore that person. At worst, he'll ignore everyone.
- Have you been practicing in the house and it's going well? Try for a new environment. Try the back yard. Already good at that? Go to the front when it's quiet, and later when it's busy. You'll have to start back a step or two whenever you change a variable in the equation. A new place, trainer or distraction makes it very challenging to the dog. Don't let him fail. Ask for the amount you know he can do right and build from that.

Psssst. Next week, tell us you read your homework and get an extra Lucky Bone :)