



## Beginning Homework • Week 4

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### Close

Whether walking or stationary. Keep a standard leash length and hold your arm still. If the leash is tight, move the opposite direction from your dog and encourage him your direction. Start stationary, then take a step or two. Change direction. This is like some funny dot to dot puzzle your dog has to follow you around in. Do a zig-zag, a square or a circle.

Don't go to new territory until he can keep the leash loose in the place you started and notice you. You won't be able to keep his attention from drifting if the environment is more interesting than you are. Let him know by not moving that you're not going to reinforce his pulling. Out wait him. Also give yourself enough time that you don't feel like you have to give in to him. Stick to the rules.

Consistent behavior on your part lets him know what he can and can't get away with.

Break up your pattern of loose leash walking with sits, downs, calling your dog to come, running short distances, and stopping to play. Take Go Sniff breaks. Let him check something out.

How many steps you can go before you need to change directions to keep him on his toes? Five? Eight? Remember that number and next time try for one more. You need to release him and play often. Every new place you practice will require starting back almost to the beginning before it gets better.

### Come

Call your dog in the house or fenced backyard at least eight times a day this week. Call him for dinner, to play, to be petted, brushed, to go walking-whatever he likes. Try to pick five fun reasons to be called this week.

### Sit- and Down-Stays

Practice with your distractions during your stay. Practice having him stay while you aren't looking at him. Have him down, look away for just a second and look back. Say "Yes" and treat, give your release word, and play. Do this a few times gradually building. Next try more body distractions. Don't step away from him but move your feet side to side or next to him. Hop. Swing your elbows. Make a noise. Be creative but keep it small so he is successful. Gradually build to crazier distractions.

**Duration of time, Distraction, Distance.** These are the variables of a stay. You only change one variable at a time, and when one is increased, the others are decreased. Keep a balance.

### Down Hand Signal

You need to be able to do the signal while you're standing up. Do your new signal, pause one second, then show your dog the old signal (down from nose to toes) but stop just short of the ground. When your dog goes down, say "Yes" and treat. Repeat this several times each time stopping slightly farther from the ground. After awhile, your dog will go all the way down while your stand. Jackpot!

## Wait

Don't proceed forward without permission. Practice this where you will need it. Doors to outside, car doors, curbs, crates and gates. This is also great at stairways where your dog could get going faster than you or bump you over. Make sure the dog really has stopped motion forwards, is balanced and isn't pulling against the collar or pushing the door. Have the dog watch, release and go through. ·

## Leave It – Part 2

Warm up with a temptation from your hand first. Next drop one on the floor. Prevent him from getting it with the leash. Say "ah, ah" and "Leave it." Say "Yes" and treat when the leash is loose and he turns his head away from the "thing." Later practice leaving toys, slippers, open garbage cans, sandwiches, or cat litter boxes. Put a few objects on the floor and practice walking through the "mine field."

Use this on walks past other dogs. At first you will probably have to get off the trail and use "leave it, sit and watch" all together. Keep your leash short but loose and insist and help the dog watch you with your animated voice. Loosen the leash whenever he looks at you. Say "Yes" and treat often, then release and play when the other dogs are gone.

## Drop/Give

Rank your dog's chewies by value to him. You need to start with objects of low value for your dog to drop them successfully. Give him something (like a GummaBone for example.) While he has it in his mouth, offer him a delectable morsel of something by putting it in front of his nose. When he let's go of the bone, praise him saying "Yes! Good give" and give him the treat. When he's done eating it, give him back the bone and repeat several times. Next time change to a different object. Sometimes go up while he's playing with his own chosen toy and ask him to trade. Most of the time, give him back the object, but sometimes exchange it for another or just keep it.

## Wild Dog

A Rev 'Em Up and Settle Game. Start with a Sit and watch. Release your dog and play a crazy game of tug or Fluffy toy or give him wild rear-end scratchies. Then Stop the game and have him Sit and watch again.