



Beginning Homework • Week 5

Becky Harris, CPDT-KA

Sit/Down Stay

At this point your dog should have a solid duration with Stay in both a sit and down position. You may notice your dog has more success in one stationary command than another. If there is an evident difference, you know which area to focus more training on.

- Begin adding distance to your stay this week.
- Say “Stay” and take a half-step back. Be prepared to move forward if your dog begins to break position.
- Immediately return back to your dog, “Yes” and treat.
- Now try taking a full step back. Return back to your dog, “Yes” and Treat. Gradually increase your distance when you are having success.
- Watch your dog’s movement, the goal is to release them before they break the position on their own.
- If your dog breaks position, take a step forward to encourage them to fall back into the sit/down position. Try again, but this time, decrease your distance.

Tips:

- If your dog tends to scoot toward you when you try to walk away, try this technique on their bed/rug or an elevated surface. (Make sure they cannot fall off this surface!!) Providing them with a stationary spot helps them
- Have a partner hold your dog on leash. When your dog is at the end of the leash, say “Stay” and walk a few steps away from your dog. Continue practicing the above steps with this tip. They are associating the word “Stay” without moving toward you.

Leave It - Step 3

While your dog is on leash, hold the leash steady near your waist. Make sure to provide an ideal amount of length to your leash. Toss a treat just out of reach from your dog. Say “Leave it.” “Yes” and treat if your dog removes his nose from the treat or provides slack in the leash. Once your dog is consistent with this, increase the difficulty by expecting them to back off from the item, then eventually turning their head away.

Loose Leash Walking

Continue working on 180 degree turns. When your dog begins to follow you, add a verbal command to cue your dog that you are making a turn. (“U-Turn”, “This Way”, etc.,)

Recall

Practice these scenarios by starting a few feet from your dog before you run away. Teaching your dog to come to you from a distance will help your dog associate this into a real word setting. The faster they run to you, the better!

- **Be exciting and fun. Make this a game!**
- **Don't forget to praise and reward as if it saved their lives!**
- **Add collar grabs at the end of recall spontaneously**

Wait

The command "Wait" is slightly different than using the command "stay". With Stay, we release our dogs from the position. With wait, we are asking our dogs to pause momentarily until cued to move forward. Examples of when you might use wait for your dog would be waiting for their food bowl, waiting to walk through a door way or possibly waiting to jump out of the car. Now that you know the difference between Stay and Wait make sure to use it appropriately!

- Approach a door and stand in front of your dog. Slowly begin to open the door just a crack and say "Wait". Make sure to keep your hand on the doorknob.
- If your dog moves forward, quickly shut the door or use your body to block them.
- Repeat these steps several times.
- If you can open the door successfully, release your dog

Tips:

- Be careful not to accidentally shut your dog's nose in the door! Do not slam the door!
- If you are practicing this outside, make sure your dog is on leash.

Grooming/First Aid:

Even if your dog is a fairly new family member, at this point you should begin introducing and desensitizing them to grooming and first aid items.

Pair a positive association by treating your dog with these objects that may seem scary for your dog. Begin by treating them at the sight of the object. Eventually the object (Nail Trimmer, brush, etc.,) can touch the dog while providing a plethora of treats! If your dog shies away or moves back quickly, you may be moving too fast. The idea is for your dog to associate a positive experience-make sure you are moving slow and gradual!

We want our dogs to be comfortable going to the veterinarian. Conduct a mock vet exam by checking the ears, paws, tail, and noting any sensitivities your dog might have that you were unaware of before!

Next Week

Extra Command/Fun Trick: Teach your dog a new command or fun trick dog outside of the training homework. (Spin, Roll Over, etc.,) and demonstrate for the rest of the class before graduation!

Bring AT LEAST one Lucky Bone next week for a raffle prize! Remember, any extra lucky bones you have saved up count toward discounts for future classes! (One Lucky Bone = 25 cents)