



Intermediate Homework • Week 2

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Heel

- Heel position is traditionally on the left. (You can also teach your dog to walk very close with focus on the right and call it something else.)
- Put your lure on your left and look for your dog's neck to be lined up with your leg before you "yes" and treat. As you practice you will start "yes"ing for his head orienting towards you as well. Eventually you will "yes" for good attention.
- "Yes" each time your dog is in position. This is rapid fire. Be generous. Gradually build. Don't expect several steps yet.
- You will want a physical cue to let your dog know you're working on heeling and not close. Decide where you will carry your hands during heel. Your hands will be held more casually during an ordinary Close.
- Practice going from Close to Heel with your different hand positions. Add in Recalls (calling your dog to Come.) Position for Recall is hands together and running backwards.
- Start luring your dog into a straight sit at your side just before you halt.
- Remember to reinforce while moving and for your sit both.
- You will drop your lure to the left side of your leg at nose height to show your Right Turn.
- Left turns will probably start Week Three.

Sit for Guests

This is one you can call "Go say hi," or "visit," or "friend," or something else that makes sense to you. This is to help teach your dog which people to be friendly with and what the proper etiquette is.

If your dog is unsure of people you know are safe...

set an example for him by verbally greeting someone, stepping forward confidently and shaking hands or patting the person on the shoulder. Let the dog hang back if he wants but have the "guest" throw him a little treat. You should seem very pleased. Keep your leash loose. Keep the guest's body language neutral (sideways with little eye contact.) Try this with lots of enthusiasm. Ignore the dog if he's acting shy, but praise him warmly when he comes forward. This may take time.

If your dog isn't shy...

he will probably be mowing people over with his exuberance in greeting. In this case make sure your leash is on your dog whenever he's going to meet someone. Plan ahead. If he's leaping and pulling, stand on his leash until he settles down. You and the guest should ignore him until he stops. When he has, tell him your phrase ("Go say hi," etc.), and approach your guest. Use a treat as a lure to help him focus. You show him to Sit and Watch. Use his leash to keep his feet on the ground- maybe by standing on it.

Release him to Go Say Hi. That's when the guest could give him a treat and if he stays sitting, a pet. If at any time he leaps up, the guest should ignore him until he sits again. You can say "Whoops, too bad"

and walk away to start over. (If you want your dog to have a jump up word, that's okay, but only ask for it occasionally and only after the dog has already settled into his sit.)

Stays, Sits and Downs

Build for a solid short stay without fidgets or scooting. Once you have that, build up a small duration of time. Next, add in your small distractions. Add the stay hand signal. Look away for just a second and look back. Say "Yes!" Reward him, give your release word, and play. Do this a few times gradually building. Next try 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.

Can you walk around her in both directions? Normal speed, slow and fast? Casually and sneakily? Without her scooting or shifting? Then you're ready to add some distance. Take just one step out, "yes" and go back to reward and release. Practice leaving from heel position – right foot first.

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. Success breeds success. Balance the difficulty.

Passing a Dog on a Walk

Be on the look out for dogs so you can be proactive with your plans. You want to have your dog keep his attention on you and look to you for information on how to handle situations.

When you see a dog, say something like "Oh, there's a dog, heel, right here, watch, good job." While you are showing your dog how to do all this, keep moving either away or parallel so you don't get any closer and make it harder for yourself and your dog.

Your goal is to not have your dog react at all-not to have him go off and you subdue him. Given that, how much room do you need to have to be successful? Should you cross the street? Should you just move out of the way to the side? Do you need a visual barrier like a car or a hedge? Think about what you may need to do while walking and pretend there's a dog even when there isn't and practice your scenarios.

Think this is too hard? Then give yourself a lot more space so it won't be so intense and you can be more successful with your timing and coordination. Practice is the only way to get better.

Settle on a Rug

Get a jump start on teaching your dog Go to Place by working on this.

After you've come home, taken the dog out to eliminate, played for a while or practiced your sits, watch and recall. Now he hasn't any urgent need to do anything. Put him on leash and go to your favorite chair. He should have a blanket there. Give him a good chewie or Kong. Step on his leash and begin to pretend to have a life. Watch T.V., Talk to the family, Read. Every so often while he's being relaxed, reach down and stroke him slowly and talk to him quietly.

You can also work on this when you're on an outing. Find a place to sit, step on his leash and ignore him until he settles. Quietly talk and stroke him every so often for a short while. Get up and resume your outing.

How Long to Practice?

Practice with your dog about fifteen minutes per day. This could be three 5-minute sessions, five 3-minute sessions, fifteen 1-minute sessions. Fit it into your everyday life. ("Come" to dinner, "watch" before the door is opened, "come, sit and watch" to play ball, etc.)

Change your Training Location

Is your dog a star in his training in the living room? Great! Teach him he can be a star anywhere. Dogs can only learn to generalize their behaviors if they've practiced in many environments and under various distractions. Try the backyard. Getting good at that? Go to the front when its quiet, and later when its 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.

Trick

By week six we would like to see your dog doing a new trick you have either taught (with luring or shaping) or named because he was already offering it(captured). Need some ideas on how to proceed? Suggestions? Demonstration? Just ask.

In class next week, say you read your homework and get a two Lucky Bones :)