



Puppy Homework • Week 2

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Puppy Socialization

Think of your puppy as a sponge; they are able to soak up everything that they are exposed to. During this period, it is important for your puppy to receive a lot of socialization, especially with humans. Socialization is crucial for how they will react to certain things as an adult. If they lack proper socialization your puppy may exhibit behaviors such as fearfulness or aggression. This week, try having your puppy meet five different people beyond those in your class.

Name Game

Remember to only say the name once! Begin adding minimal distractions at home. Puppies are curious creatures, so take advantage of opportunities for potential distractions. (Examples: when your other dog or family cat walks by; when someone else enters the room; when they follow a family member out of the room; etc.)

TIP: If your puppy does not respond after the first time, try whistling or making a noise to help redirect his/her attention.

Sit & Watch

At this point, the lure (treat in hand) should be minimally necessary when asking for a sit. Our puppies should always be providing us with short eye contact when cued.

Remember to test their understanding of the Watch command by holding a treat out to the side and say “Watch” (as demonstrated in class).

Down

To teach our puppies how to lie down, it helps to start with a solid sit. From the sit position, hold the treat in front of the puppy’s nose and slowly lure into the down position. If your pup does not immediately drop into position, “Yes” and treat for every correct movement toward the final command.

Only add the verbal command “down” once your puppy is quickly dropping into the final position with the lure.

TIP: Make sure to provide a jackpot when your dog finally offers the position!

Jumping Up on Handler

Consistency! Make sure you supervise your puppy with every greeting. Inform anyone that wants to pet your cute puppy that they are in training! If your puppy jumps up on you, “Act Like a Tree” by turning your back and simply ignoring the behavior. Instruct others to do the same. Make sure to reward the correct behavior by giving them attention when they are being appropriate.

Come/Recall

Now that our puppies are becoming familiar with the verbal command, “Come” we can begin adding more distance by using excitement. Have a buddy hold your puppy’s leash. Start close to your puppy, get them excited, turn your back and run/take quick steps away from your puppy. Only move a short distance away at the beginning. Turn back around say, “Come”. Allowing your puppy to chase you makes for a more exciting and successful recall! Practice this activity on your own whenever your pup is distracted; otherwise utilize a buddy when you can!

- Practice this activity inside first, and then try it in your backyard!
- When your puppy has reached you, immediately praise and reward them.
- Repeat the activity, but this time start a couple feet away from your dog before you cue your puppy to come.

TIP: If your puppy is fast and your buddy can’t keep up on leash, try the activity with a longer lead.

Handling

It is important for our puppies to become familiar with handling not only by us but from others as well. Use treats while handling (touching the paws, looking into the ears, etc.) to help build a positive association. Note any sensitivity your puppy may have when being handled or touched in certain areas. Begin desensitizing them to these areas by treating and using gradual soft touch. If your shows any signs of physical discomfort make sure to bring it up with your veterinarian during your next visit.