



Puppy Homework • Week 2

Brittan Winthrop, CPDT-KA

Watch (Harder)

Put that lure away! Once you can lure your puppy's eyes to yours, try it without using a treat. You can help him out by making your hand smell like treats and using the same hand signal you would use if you did have a treat in your hand. Once he watches you say "yes" and reach into your treat pouch to give him a treat. This is a great way to introduce that fact that you do not have to have a treat in your hand for him to receive one.

Goal: My puppy will watch me without luring him with a treat.

Down

Teach your puppy to lay down with the same lure and reward methods we have been using. When your puppy is in a sit, put the treat in front of his nose and lure his nose straight down to his toes. As soon as his elbows hit the ground say "yes" and reward. If your puppy's backend pops up just put him back in a sit and try again. If you are still having trouble try the "under the leg" technique. While sitting on the ground, place one leg in an archway position in front of you and try luring your puppy through the "tunnel". Be sure to give him treats as he goes through or make a little trail of treats for him to get himself. Be sure your archway is not too high and that you do not move your leg while he's under it.

Goal: My puppy will lie down using a lure when asked by a guest.

Verbal Cues and Hand Signals

Once your puppy is reliably following treats, you can now teach him a verbal cue and/or hand signal. If you want your puppy to lay down say "down," wait one second, and then show him with your hand signal. By putting the new cue in front of the old one, and waiting one second, he will start guessing what you want with enough repetition. If he gets it right make a big deal and give him numerous small treats.

Goal: My puppy can sit on a verbal cue and down using a hand signal.

Come (Recalls)

By now your puppy should be coming when called when you are in the house, and if not keep practicing. With a friend or family member try calling him back and forth in different locations. Be sure you are using the same yummy treats and be sure to reward him every time he gets it right. You cannot practice this enough! It may save his life one day! Try keeping a container full of treats in different locations in your house and around your property, so the rewards are unexpected and exciting. Furthermore, remember the rules: only use the word "come" if you are 99% positive he will listen, do not call him for anything negative, and be sure you are always happy when he does come to you, even if you have been chasing him all around the neighborhood!

Goal: My puppy can come when called in the yard, on a leash, with minimal distraction.

Handling and Restraint

Spend time touching and handling your puppy everywhere on his body to ensure that he is comfortable and relaxed about it. Your puppy should be comfortable being handled when he is healthy so he will let you help him if he is hurt. Once a day, sit down with your puppy, bring some treats, and start with long strokes down his body. Pick up his paw and treat him, look in his ear and treat him, pick up his tail and treat him. Be relaxed and tell him how good he is. Your vet will thank you for this one!

Bring your homework back next week with all the goals checked off and receive five extra Lucky Bones!