



## Puppy Homework • Week 2

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### Watch

Let's work on getting that treat out of your hand. Continue to use the hand signal, and mimic the treat lure for "watch". When your pup looks up at you say "YES" and reward. Instead of rewarding directly out of your hand, grab a treat from your pouch, pocket, or somewhere really close by. Practice this in a low distraction environment, and see if you can get up to five seconds of a sustained watch, without a treat in your hand.

### Down

Continue working on that down. See if you can lure your puppy into a down, while you stand all the way upright, without your puppy hopping up. Practice "down" on multiple surfaces types, such as wood floors, carpeted areas, rugs, linoleum, concrete, grass, bark dust etc. Can a guest lure your puppy successfully into a down?

### Verbal Cues

When your pup is reliably following a lure, you can now start incorporating verbal cues. For example, ask your puppy to "sit" wait a brief moment, and if your pup doesn't sit, then follow up with the lure. They already know what that lure means, and will sit. Say "yes" and reward. When we put the new cue in front of the already learned action, your puppy will start to recognize that the word "sit" will be followed by the lure for "sit" and then the action of sitting. If you repeat this many times, your pup will learn to not rely on that lure, but go directly into the sit on the verbal. Show me your puppy can sit with only the verbal cue next week (or that you've been working on it!), and I'll give you three lucky bones!

### Come

The long process to a solid recall is done in baby steps. Your puppy should be successfully coming when called within the home, with minimal distractions. Now it's time to try playing "puppy ping pong". With a friend or family member, call your puppy back and forth. Start really close together, make sure both parties have yummy treats, and practice saying your puppy's name one time and then

"COME!" in a clear, strong voice. If your puppy doesn't come, use that treat to lure your puppy towards you, and help him out. Reward him every time he's successful, even if you had to lure him. Keep practicing! Remember the two golden rules of recall - only call your puppy to fun and exciting things, and only call your puppy when you're 99% sure he's going to come. You can also start practicing your recalls in your own yard with low distractions. Leash your pup and practice those "back-away recalls" that we've done in class. Practice in the back yard, the front yard, the side yard, the drive way, the porch, everywhere!

### Handling

If you cannot handle your puppy when he's well, you'll never be able to if he's sick or injured. After your pup has had some exercise, grab some treats, get comfy and touch that puppy! Starting with long, slow pets, touch your puppy from head to tail. Give a treat. Lift an ear, give a treat. Lift that tail, give a treat. Spread the paws and check the pads, give a treat. Pry open their mouth, and toss in a treat. Check the tummy, the back legs-everywhere! Stay relaxed, tell him what a good puppy he is, and try to practice a little every day.