



## Puppy Homework • Week 3

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### Rewards are Everywhere

When we introduce new behaviors to our puppies, we use food because it is quick and easy. As your puppy has a better understanding of what you are asking, try using life rewards instead of treats! Ask him to lie down while you're delivering his meal, ask him to sit before you open the door for him to go outside, try making him watch you before giving him a toy. Figure out what is rewarding for him and use it in everyday situations!

**Goal:** My puppy can sit while I clip on his leash.

### Loose Leash Walking

Teaching your puppy to walk with you on a loose leash takes a lot of practice, but is very rewarding. Having your puppy stroll along side of you instead of pulling you down the street usually means he will be able to go more places with you, and be more active in your life. Teach him by first getting his attention and shortening up on the leash (be sure he still has enough leash to have slack in it) and firmly plant it on your hip. Once he is watching you, take one step. If your puppy is still with you deliver a treat to him right against your leg. Repeat. Slowly build up to two steps, then three, and start randomly changing directions to encourage him to keep focusing on you. If at any point your puppy gets ahead and starts to pull, stop, or go in the opposite direction so he learns pulling you just won't work. If you never take a step again on a tight leash your puppy will catch on that he won't make it where he wants to go unless he is staying with you. Help him out by exercising him first and practicing in a non-distracting environment. Be sure to praise him a ton and dish out a lot of treats! Frustrated? Ask about a gentle leader head harness or a body harness.

**Goal:** My puppy can take 10 steps in the house on a loose leash.

### Come (Recalls)

Turn your recall practice into fun and exciting games! Try hiding around the house or yard and calling him. This uses his natural instinct to track you down and helps him check in with you more in case you disappear on him. When he finds you, have treats or a toy ready and be super exciting. Your puppy will appreciate your enthusiasm!

**Goal:** I can hide in my yard and my puppy tries to find me.

### Collar Work

Getting your puppy used to having his collar handled can help out in real life situations if you ever need to catch him. Have you ever seen the dog at the park who ducks every time his owner tried to grab him? Avoid this by frequently touching his collar, say "yes" and reward. After he is accepting this, hold your puppy's collar and lightly shake it while delivering treats. Dogs often associate being lead by their collar as something negative, so try leading him to his food dish or a favorite toy.

**Goal:** I can lead my puppy by his collar to a treat on the ground.

## See the World

Be sure you are taking your puppy out all the time to meet new people and experience new things. Socialization as a puppy is important to having a well rounded dog. Have your puppy meet people of all ages and races. Show them people in wheelchairs and using crutches. Play dress up with your puppy by putting on funny hats, backpacks, large coats, and glasses. Take him around loud noises such as power tools and construction sites and reward him with exciting treats for being brave. Bring your Resource Guide back to us with the socialization check list almost full and receive a prize for your puppy.

**Goal:** I took my puppy to three places he has never been.

## Tricks!

Your puppy can be the star of the neighborhood! Teaching your puppy tricks is a great bonding experience and an excellent way to show off his training. Use the lure and reward methods to show him how to roll over, sit pretty, play dead, crawl, shake, and many more. At graduation you must show off a new trick in order to graduate! Ask us for suggestions on how to teach them.

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