



Puppy Homework • Week 3

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Sit and Watch

Add Duration of time to your sit and watch. Work for a few seconds longer with a lot of reinforcement for those lengths. If the behavior starts falling apart its because you asked for a little too much and now he isn't sure what you want. Use your release word at the end of each of these, encouraging him onto his feet and play a little with him.

Puppy Pushups

Work on little drills of Sit, Down, Stand with your puppy. This gets your pup listening, burns off some energy and builds his cooperation with you. Try different orders, build duration on holding positions, and the number of repetitions your dog will do between rewards.

Recall (Come)

****Restrained recall** – Do a crazy rev-up game.**

Practice calling your dog with a friend. Only the person calling is exciting. The leash holder is quiet. Show your dog a great treat or toy. Touse his hair.

Entice him. "Look what I have! Ready, ready?" When your dog is super-excited and looking at you, say "Name, Come!" and run away from him. Say "Name, Come!" only if you are sure you're going to make it happen.

While your dog is coming, be happy, happy, happy and be prepared to reward heavily. Run away from him, then slow down and "land" him in a Sit and watch. Hold his collar gently and say "yes" and treat or pet him several times, then break and play with him. Always have a little celebration with your dog when he comes to you. Practice in a variety of locations, if possible.

Close

Break up your pattern of loose leash walking with sits, downs, calling your dog to come, running short distances, and stopping to play. How many steps can you go before you need to change directions to keep him on his toes? Five? Eight? Remember that number and next time try for one more. You need to release him and play often. Every new place you practice will require starting back almost to the beginning before it gets better.

Settling Hold/Being Restrained

This will be demonstrated in class. It is useful for developing an "off switch" in dogs. It is important to teach your dog it is okay to be restrained and it is important to be able to help your dog in emergency, grooming or in out of control situations without either of you getting injured. Practice this at low-key times.

Hand Signal – No Lure Visible

Warm your dog up with a few repetitions of Sit and Down. Then put your lure away into your pouch and do the same motion as when you had the lure. Your dog should do the behavior because all is still the same. When he does, "yes" and quickly get the treat out for him. This is how you continue for the next couple of days. When it's going well, start asking for him for more duration.

Meet somebody

Introduce your dog to somebody new. If he's shy, let him go to the people at his own speed. Teach the people to only pet and notice him when his feet are on the ground. Teach the people appropriate body language.

Teach your dog tricks

Why? It's fun, good mental exercise, and builds attitude and understanding. Many are useful for warming your dog up for exercise. How about sit pretty, shake, bang, crawl, wave, spin or roll over? Try to use shaping and reinforcement to teach it.

Remember to practice in many short sessions with breaks.

Your dog will not learn well if you're always "cramming" for the test by practicing all in one day.

- Are you doing all the training yourself? Recruit family and friends! Don't just tell them the words – teach them how to teach the dog. Nothing un-trains your dog faster than saying, "sit, sit, sit" or "come, come, come" and not showing the dog how to get it right.
- Have you been practicing in the house and it's going well? Try for a new environment. Try the back yard. Already good at that? Go to the front when it's quiet, and later when it's busy. You'll have to start back a step or two whenever you change the situation. 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.

Psssst. Next week, tell us you read your homework and get an extra Lucky Bone:)