



Puppy Homework • Week 4

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Intermittent Rewards

It's time to break the bad news to your puppy; he doesn't get a treat for everything you ask of him. Just as you put money in a slot machine in hopes you might win, your puppy should execute commands in hopes he might be rewarded. This is called gambling. Start this by asking him for a sit, down, sit then say "yes" and reward. Next time try asking for one more down, then reward. Still use treats every time you introduce something new, or if something is still challenging for him. Also, remember to use those life rewards.

Goal: My puppy can sit, down, sit, for one treat without a lure.

Come (Recalls)

Speed up your puppy's recalls by reserving extra yummy treats or a special toy that you only use during practice. Try running away quickly while calling him to help his chasing instincts kick-in and make it an exciting game. Practicing often is a great way to wear your puppy out while learning a potentially life saving command!

Goal: My puppy comes when called in a fenced-in area with minimal distraction.

Sit and Down (Increasing Duration)

Increasing the amount of time your puppy can hold a sit and down will help prepare for stay work in the future. Introduce this by increasing the amount of time between the cue and delivering the treat. For instance, ask your puppy to sit, once he does tell him softly how great he's doing before you say "yes" and reward him. Start with short amounts of time and then gradually work up to more time. Be sure you are rewarding your puppy frequently throughout the process. Once you have tried with a sit then work on a down.

Goal: My puppy will sit for 10 seconds before I give him a treat.

Loose Leash Walking

Keep up the practice! This will definitely pay off! Stopping or changing directions every time the leash gets tight sends him a clear message that pulling you will not get him where he wants to go. Only by staying with you he will be able to get where he wants. Try practicing by using a toy or treat on the ground. Make sure he sees it and try moving towards it. If the leash gets tight say "uh-uh" and QUICKY turn around and take some penalty steps away for it. Timing is important! Try again, if he makes it there without pulling let him have the treat or play with the toy with him.

Goal: My puppy can approach a toy he likes on a loose leash.

Drop

Teaching your puppy to drop things he wants can be a useful command. When puppies are with their littermates they learn if they let something go they may never get it back. Start practicing if you see your puppy with an item that isn't very exciting and go trade him for something he likes better such a fun toy or a treat. Put the treat in front of his nose and say "drop". Once he drops the item say "yes", reward, and give the item back to him. Practice whenever you see him carrying something around if you have a treat that he likes better. Giving the item back insures him that it won't disappear forever and he is more likely to relinquish the item.

Goal: My puppy can drop an old toy when I ask him using a treat.

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