



Puppy Homework • Week 4

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Play Doctor (Whoo hoo!)

Handling and restraint. Start going over your dog lightly. Look in the ears, at the teeth, play between the toes, touch and pet all over. Get out your pretend stethoscope and flashlight. Get out your grooming tools. Start when he's tired. Be relaxed. Pet slowly. Use treats to distract from the more sensitive areas. Have other people do this too.

Pick Up Your Puppy

Pick up your puppies and carry them around occasionally while you can still lift them. Make sure you do it nicely and securely and hold onto them if they get wiggly. Put them down when they're calm. Have other people you can trust do it too. There are times when this may come up in their lifetimes. If you have little dogs, make sure other people handle them too- and make sure they walk around on the ground and don't always get carried.

Close

Walking toward a goal. A goal can be anything – a gate, a friend, a toy, a piece of food, etc. Set out your goal not too far away. Start with your pup beside you.

* If he runs to the end of the leash, make a No Reward Sound (small noise - like oops!, etc.) before he hits the end of the leash. Stop! Don't reinforce even one step of pulling.

* You can quickly change direction, or you can walk backwards.

* Keep going away from the goal until he catches back up to your leg. Then say "Yes" and go forward again.

Every time your dog forges ahead, say your Oops noise and walk away the goal. When your dog had done a good job, say "Yes" and "Get it" or "Say hi" or "Check it out" – whichever is appropriate.

Do this with a variety of goals and in a variety of places.

Come

Call your pup in the house or fenced backyard at least eight times a day this week. Call him for dinner, to play, to be petted, brushed, to go walking-whatever he likes. Try to pick five fun reasons to be called this week.

Down Hand Signal

You need to be able to do your signal while you're standing up. Do your new signal, pause one second, then show your dog the old signal (down from nose to toes), but stop just short of the ground. When your dog goes down, say "Yes" and treat. Repeat this several times, each time stopping slightly farther from the ground. After a while, your dog will go all the way down while you stand. Jackpot!

Drop/Give

Rank your dog's chewies by value to him. You need to start with objects of low value for your dog to drop them successfully. Give him something (like a GummaBone for example.) While he has it in his mouth, offer him a delectable morsel of something by putting it in front of his nose. When he lets go of the bone, praise him saying "Yes! Good give" and give him the treat. When he's done eating it, give him back the bone and repeat several times. Next time change to a different object. Sometimes go up while he's playing with his own chosen toy and ask him to trade. Most of the time, give him back the object, but sometimes exchange it for another or just keep it.

Wild Dog

A rev-em-up and settle game. Start with a Sit and watch. Release your dog and play a crazy game of tug or fluffy toy or give him wild rear-end scritchies. Then stop the game and have him Sit and watch again.

Extra: Food Dish

Teach your dog to welcome people near their food dish. Work on this now to avoid food guarding. Make sure your dog is comfortable with each step before you progress to the next. ***If your dog growls, stop immediately and contact your trainer.***

Place your dog's food dish on the floor and put something special in it (cheese, hot dog, etc.) Practice this a few times.

Next, place the food dish with regular kibble in it on the floor. Get a smelly treat and draw your dog's attention to it. Let them eat bits of it from your hand, then toss into food dish.

Place the dish with kibble on floor and sit next to it with smelly treat. Let your dog nibble and then place into dog's dish.

Approach your dog's food bowl and toss a treat in. When your dog has finished the meal, pick up the bowl and put a treat into it. Ask your dog to sit then reward them by putting the bowl back on the floor.