



Puppy Homework • Week 5

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Sit & Down

It is important that we teach our dogs both verbal and visual cues with every command. This is not only beneficial during the learning process, but can also be helpful when they reach their senior years. When first introducing a *visual* command make sure you say the *verbal* command slightly before. Since dogs are more visually orientated, saying the command slightly before the visual helps them to not depend solely on the visual cue.

Cookie Drop

This is another great practice to help your puppy with impulse control. This will help teach our puppy not to jump up if we are carrying something above their heads. If you are already having your puppy wait for his/her food bowl you might have quick success with this activity!

Have your puppy sit. Hold a treat in your fist and slowly lower it to your dog's nose.

If your puppy remains in the sit position, "Yes" and treat them.

If your puppy jumps up, remove your fist and try again.

Recall – "Come"

Practice these scenarios by starting a few feet from your dog before you run away. Teaching your dog to come to you from a distance will help your dog associate this with a real-world setting. The faster they run to you, the better!

- **Be exciting and fun. Make this a game!**
- **Don't forget to praise and reward as if it saved their lives!**
- **Add collar grabs at the end of recall spontaneously**

Grooming/First Aid:

Even if your dog is a fairly new family member, at this point you should begin introducing and desensitizing them to grooming and first aid items.

Pair a positive association by treating your puppy with these objects that may seem scary for your dog. Begin by treating them initially for seeing the object. Eventually have the object (nail trimmer, brush, etc.) touch your puppy while providing a plethora of treats! If your pup shies away or moves back quickly, you may be pushing them too far. The idea is for your puppy to associate a positive experience – make sure you are moving slowly and gradually!

We want our puppies to be comfortable going to the veterinarian. Conduct a mock vet exam by checking the ears, paws, tail, and noting any sensitivities your puppy might have that you were unaware of before!

If you find something your puppy is comfortable with such as a brush, try having a new person groom your puppy. This will help your puppy get used to other people handling them.

Next Week

Extra Command/Fun Trick: Teach your puppy a new command or fun trick outside of the training homework. (Spin, Shake, Roll Over, etc.,) Your puppy will show off their new trick for the rest of the class before graduation!

Bring AT LEAST one Lucky Bone next week for a raffle prize! Remember, any extra lucky bones you have saved up count toward discounts for future classes! (One Lucky Bone = 25 cents)

Scavenger Hunt

Don't forget to keep up with the socialization! Refer to the Resource Guide handed out our first class/lecture and check off as many items if not all on the socialization checklist! Bring it with you to class next week and receive five Lucky Bones! If you introduce your puppy to a new experience/item beyond what's suggested in the Resource Guide, you will receive an extra Lucky Bone if you share one of your experiences!