



Puppy Homework • Week 5

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Explore!

Socialization is so important when it comes to raising a happy and well-rounded dog. Keep getting out there and seeing the world! It's normal for a puppy to go through stages and changes while developing. Things that were perfectly fine one day, might be scary the next. Keep those outings positive with lots of treats and feedback. Have treats on you and ask friendly strangers if they might say hi to your puppy and feed a treat. Try to visit new places every day. The gas station, a school yard, the supermarket, etc. even just hopping out to sniff around and see a couple people can be a valuable trip that didn't take up a ton of your time, and you probably needed to go here anyway! If your puppy is having a lovely time, enjoy! If your puppy seems a little uncomfortable or nervous, perhaps a shorter visit is best. End on a positive note, and try again tomorrow!

Wait

Wait is an incredibly useful command, not to be confused with stay. Stay means hold the position you're in, and do not move a muscle. Wait means do not continue to move forward. For example, you are getting out of the car, and your puppy needs to not immediately hop out and follow you. You would say "wait". Your pup does not have to sit perfectly still, and is free to move about the vehicle, but not to exit the car. Or you are heading outside and you do not want your puppy rushing out the door in front of you, you would open the door and say "wait" your pup is free to move about the home, but not proceed out the door.

To teach your puppy to wait, leash them up and head to the door. Standing between the door and your puppy, gradually open the door a little bit. If your pup starts to move forward, shut the door and pair with a verbal correction such as "uh-oh" or "oh no". Repeat this until your puppy remains paused while the door is open. Then you can release your pup and the reward is being able to travel through the open door. Keep practicing and as your puppy improves add the verbal cue "wait" prior to opening the door. A lot of puppies will offer a sit while practicing this exercise. A sit is very polite, but it is not required.

Play Doctor

The vet can be a scary place full of strange sights, sounds, and smells. You want your puppy to be comfortable with objects they might encounter at a vet or during an illness or injury. With a lot of delicious treats in hand, practice touching objects to your puppy. You can use an eye or ear dropper, ace bandage, t-shirt, puppy brush, and the ever-so-popular toenail clippers. You want everything to be positive, so if your puppy is showing a little discomfort, just let them sniff the item, and get a treat. Then maybe you can touch your puppy with the object, then they get a treat. Keep it short, sweet and positive. Eventually, with practice, try to see if you can pick up your puppy's paw and just touch the clippers to the foot. Try to touch each and every claw individually. Keep practicing handling your puppy all over tool

Food Dish

We want your puppy to be happy and comfortable with hands around his food dish. To teach your puppy this, you can start by giving him his kibble, then tossing something extra tasty and delicious in while he's eating. If this is successful, pick up the bowl, add a tasty treat, then return the bowl to him. Repeat this during his meals to develop a nice, healthy relationship with your hands, and his food. If your puppy freezes, or growls, cease this activity and come talk to us – we'll help you find alternatives.

Another thing to practice with your puppy is sitting nicely to wait for his dinner. With your puppy in a sit, slowly lower his food dish to the floor. If he pops up, correct with an "oops!" and return the food dish to starting height. Keep repeating this until you can set the food dish on the floor while your puppy waits patiently. Release your puppy to his reward, dinner!

Come

If your recall practice is going well, and you are successfully calling your puppy in different, quiet environments, let's add some distractions. Try placing some foreign items your puppy has never seen before in your house or yard, and call your puppy to come past these objects. Remember to try to set your puppy up for success, so the more distracting the item, the closer you might need to be to your puppy to get a successful recall. Remember to be happy and cheerful when your puppy comes to you, and reward with lots of little treats and happy praise.

Graduation is next week – Don't forget to bring your Lucky Bones and be ready to show off that trick!