



Puppy Intermediate Homework • Week 1

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Watch

Keep building and work for thirty seconds. Then reduce the time but add distractions one at a time. Release your pup often and celebrate a good job.

“Pledge Allegiance to the Dog”

Train/Prep your guests ahead of time.

- Stand on your dog’s leash with just a bit of slack in it.
- The guest approaches the dog from the front.
- As he walks forward, he says “Hi, Fred” (or whoever the dog is).
- The guest brings his treat up, in an arc to his heart (The Klingon Salute.)
- If at any point the dog bounces up, the guest goes back and starts over.
- If the dog sits, she gets a treat and a pet.
- This is an all-or-nothing reward – do it right to get the attention, pet and treat.

“Slowly Descending Cookie Torture”

For Sit-Stay practice.

- Have your dog sit. Start with a treat or toy over their head. "Yes" and reward for holding the sit.
- Then go again, say “Stay” and lower the treat/toy a little ways. When they hold still, "yes" and reward.
- Set them up again. When your dog is good at this, see if you can do it with a hand over their head until you can lower it and pet them on the head. "Yes" and reward the successes.

Close (Let’s Go)

Loose leash walking. Four feet on the floor, short but loose leash, your dog beside you. Decide where Close is for you. All around you? Anywhere but the front? Never on the right?

Reward only where you think it's okay. Deliver the treat on the side of your leg. Work on other walking words for different positions around you.

Positively reinforce every time he is in the right place. This means lots . Mark "Yes" while you are walking. If you "yes" only when you stop walking and he sits, he'll just be really good at sit.

Eventually stretch what he has to stay in position for two steps, then three, between "yes"s. Release and play frequently. Or break into a jog. Anything exciting.

Reward check-ins. It’s nice when he glances at you. Smile, praise and reward in other ways.

Change direction a lot if you're likely to lose interest. If he's pretty focused on you, go straight for a while. Gradually add more steps between times you "yes" and treat.

Recalls

Call your dog ten times a day from a no distraction environment this week. Make sure there are good reasons to come. Make it fun, food, or frolic. In the house to start. Then quiet outdoor areas.

Recall with U-Turn. Come from distractions

This week practice short distance U-turn recalls away from small distractions. Back up several steps. Start with the distraction fairly far away. and work until you can be fairly close to it.

Leave It (turn and move away from "it") - Part 1

Hold a morsel of food or a toy in your fist in front of your dog's nose. Say "Leave it." When the dog takes his nose off your hand, say ""Yes" and "Take it" and give him what's in your hand. Next do the same but count one to yourself. Good dog. Say "Yes" Treat. Again. Count one, two. Say "Yes" and treat. Good dog. Switch hands. Gradually lengthen the time. This is stage one of this exercise.

Play

Spend time in many situations playing with your dog. Its so much easier to keep your dog's attention on you in new or distracting environments if she's used to playing little spontaneous games with you. Call her to you and start a game. Practice playing big, wild, crazy games and little games. Play with her with toys and without. Pet her, run around, clap, parade, etc. Use play as one of your rewards for her doing what you ask- like sit stay.

Settle

Put your dog on leash. Get some treats and go sit in a chair. Stand on your dog's leash where it hits the ground with him standing comfortably. Ignore him. Wait for him lie down and relax. "Yes!" and drop him a treat. If he continues to lie down, drop another. Wait a few seconds. Continue your pattern.

Social Stuff...

Say "Hi"

Say "hi" to four new people this week. Practice sitting to be petted. Pick a variety of people.

Visit the Veterinarian

When you don't need shots or an exam. Just go for the experience. Practice getting weighed or just get a treat from an employee who's not too busy. Call ahead to see if its an okay time.

Have your friend hold your dog for you.

Find a friend to hold your dog's leash for you for just a minute while you walk around a corner. Introduce your dog, say "I'll be right back" and walk away calmly. It's okay for the friend to play and visit with your dog. Come right back calmly. It's no big deal.