



Puppy Intermediate • Week 2

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Polite Greetings-Sit for Attention

Jumping up on people is a behavior that may often reappear. Instead of simply ignoring the behavior, we should now expect more from our dogs by cueing a “sit” when a person approaches. Eventually, the “sit” should become automatic.

- Cue for a “Sit” (lure if needed) as a person approaches.
- If your dog tries to jump up on the person, say “off” and move farther away from the person.
- If they remain in a sit, “Yes!” and treat or have the greeter provide attention to your dog as a reward.
- If you are having success, ask your dog to remain in a “sit” position for petting. Start with the greeter giving one pet, immediately give your dog the release command so they can go say hi. Make sure to treat your dog while the greeter is petting to help them remain in position. Gradually increase the amount of petting and duration while your dog is in “sit”.

Tip for polite greetings

Make sure to stay consistent and practice this any opportunity you have! If you are having trouble finding greeters that will follow the rules (no attention for jumping), try visiting a pet store, the employees will more than likely respect your training goals.

Sit & Down Stay

Continue to work on duration with Stay. If you are progressing, add minimal distractions before adding any distance. Without stepping away, try turning around with your back to your dog. Now quickly turn back to face them. Immediately “Yes” and treat if they did not break position, then release. If they are not having success, you may need to lower your distraction.

Watch

At this point the lure should be completely gone for short eye contact. Remember to test the lure method by holding a treat out to the side and say, “Watch.”

Mobile “Watch”- If your dog is able hold eye contact for a period of duration, try using the “Watch” command while walking. At the start, say “Watch” and try walking one step with eye contact. “Yes” and treat for success! Gradually increase the amount of steps you take. If your dog breaks eye contact you may be expecting too much from them. Try decreasing your amount of steps or move farther away from any distraction or potential trigger.

Loose Leash Walking

Keep practicing the “Stop and Go” technique that we learned in Puppy Kindergarten:

- Take one step forward. If there is slack in the leash take another step forward.
- When your dog pulls and creates tension in the leash, plant your feet and stop. Only continue to walk once there is slack in the leash.

- If needed, use treats to help create slack and to keep your dog close to you. If you can, limit the use of treats- verbal encouragement works great! Their reward can be continuing to walk.

Tips for loose leash walking:

- Remember to deliver the treats on the same side you would like them to walk on
- A tired dog makes for an easier training session. Practice loose leash walking after daycare, playtime, fetch, or any other stimulating activity. You will have a lot more success with these techniques when your dog is more relaxed and focused.

Come/Recall

Now that our dogs are familiar with the verbal command “Come,” we can begin adding more distance when practicing this command. Have a person hold your dog’s leash. Walk a few feet away from your dog before gaining their attention. Get them excited about coming to you, show them you have a treat if needed. Say “Come,” turn your back and run away from your dog. If they come to you, make sure to reward and praise as if it saved their life! If your dog stays with the handler or gets distracted along the way, make sure to “intercept” by quickly moving closer to your dog to regain their attention.

- You do not always need a buddy to practice this activity at home. Wait until your dog is distracted (or not looking at you) before saying “come” or simply run into the other room after saying “come”. This makes for a fun game!
- When your dog has reached you, immediately praise and reward them.

**** Next Week: Please bring a bed/mat for your dog! ****