



Puppy Intermediate Homework • Week 3

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Leave it with Close and Recalls

Go outside without your dog and lay out a few "Leave it" distractions in your normal walking area. This way, you'll know where they are and can be prepared to help your dog do the right thing since you won't be caught off guard. Make at least one of them a thing he can have if he does a good job.

Take the time to do set ups for your practice with your dog. It is much better when you can act and know what to do instead of be surprised and react slowly.

Sit and Down Stay

Work on building Distraction and Duration of time slowly and in balance with each other. We next want to add Distance. When we do that we will want to shorten the Duration and Distraction again to maintain a balance that the dog is capable of succeeding at. When practicing distance, return to your dog to release him, rather than releasing or calling from distance.

Practice Somewhere New

Dogs build reliability in their behaviors as they can start to generalize that they need to perform everywhere. Start finding places you can practice that aren't too distracting at first. If there are people, animals, or other active things happening that's another new element.

Place #1 _____

Place #2 _____

Place #3 _____

Go To Place

Put down your place marker (rug or towel). Put a treat on it and let him go get it. Repeat a few times. Now stand and stare at the rug. If he moves to the rug, "yes", good, and drop the treat on the rug. If he stands on the rug, "yes", good, treat. Move away a step so he has to walk farther. If he goes and stands on the rug, Jackpot!

Now add the phrase you're going to use and repeat the above last steps. Next withhold the treat until you've lured the dog into a down on the rug. Release him after the down and play. You'll probably have to lure him into a down several times before he will offer a behavior on his own. When he does, Jackpot!

This is a place to give him special chewies and do positive physical touch stuff. Use this same rug while you sit in a chair and stand on his leash so you can reinforce his settle.

Examples:

Duration: 10 seconds, 15, 20, 30, 45 etc.

Distraction: You move your feet, your hands, bounce ball, squeak toy; a friend moves nearby, hops, walks, jogs, bounces ball, etc.

Different environment, same distractions.

Distance: a step around, a step away, a step away with back turned, two steps, four steps, four steps and a hop, etc.

Recalls

Practice with a partner or on a long line. Say your recall words and run away like crazy. Praise up a storm when your dog runs to you and play with him with a toy for at least a minute each time. then release. Repeat ten times a day all this week.

More Greetings and Meetings Info...

Greeting a Person Yourself

Person-to-person/no dog involvement. Practice meeting a person by saying hello at a distance. Remind your dog to walk nicely, leave it and sit-stay as necessary. Shake hands with the person, reinforce your dog, talk a bit, reinforce your dog, say goodbye and walk away, and reinforce your dog. If at any time your dog jumps up, lunges, paws, etc., say "oh, too bad" and walk away. Try three times, if your dog can't handle it, time him out.

Next time start smaller so he can be more successful.

Meeting Another Dog

Make sure it is your decision to meet a dog while you are on an outing.

You still need to take your time to practice approaching on a loose lead. This is for self control reasons and to prevent fights because of breaches of dog etiquette. Poor body language is inevitable if your dog leans in to the collar with all his weight and barges straight in. Polite dogs approach in a curve, usually do some nose/head sniffs before going to the other dog's rear.

Keep your leash loose. Move around a bit and breathe normally.

If you are meeting a dog that is going to come over to your house, meet first on neutral territory and go for a little walk. Keep both dogs on lead in the house for a while. Put away any possessions and block spots that the dogs might find valuable enough to guard.

Playtime with Other Dogs

Work on frequent interruptions, name recognition, recall, big rewards and release to go play again. Remember to reward voluntary check-ins too.