



Puppy Intermediate • Week 4

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Vocabulary Sessions

Practicing vocabulary sessions are a great way to keep old commands solid, alternate your verbal and visual cues, and encourage multiple commands for one reward.

Think of all the commands your dog has learned so far (even the commands you have taught your dog outside of class).

- Start easy: Cue your dog for one Puppy Push-Up.
- “Yes” and reward, then release your dog.
- Now try for three different cues before rewarding.
- If your dog breaks position, reset and put them back into position. This time, release them before cueing another command.

Tips

- Be unpredictable! If your dog realizes they will not receive a reward after the first cues, they may give up. Make sure you reward them for one command every once in a while to keep them encouraged!
- Don't make a pattern of your vocabulary session. If you say, “sit, down, shake” reward then, “sit, down, spin” reward, then the next time you say “sit” more than likely your dog will automatically drop into a down position without being cued.
- Think of all the other rewards to use besides treats! Praise/verbal encouragement, petting, toys, life rewards (such as playing with other dogs, chasing a squirrel, saying hello to a person)

Leave It

While your dog is on leash, hold the leash steady near your waist. Make sure to provide an ideal amount of length to your leash. Toss a treat just out of reach from your dog. Say, “Leave it”. Immediately “Yes” and treat if your dog removes his nose from the treat or provides slack in the leash. Once your dog is consistent with this, increase the difficulty by expecting them to back off from the item, then eventually turning their head away.

Wait

The command “Wait” is slightly different than using the command “Stay”. With *Stay*, we release our dogs from the position after a period of duration. This could be long or short based on the scenario.

With *wait*, we are asking our dogs to pause momentarily until cued to release and move forward.

Examples of when you might use wait for your dog would be waiting for their food bowl, waiting to walk out the door, or possibly waiting to jump out of the car. Some may use one command (Wait or Stay) for all these scenarios. If the verbal command you are currently using is successful, continue using the same cues. If you aren't having consistency, now is the time to mix it up and separate the two commands!

- Approach a door and stand in front of your dog. Slowly begin to open the door just a crack and say “Wait”. Make sure to keep your hand on the doorknob.
- If your dog moves forward, quickly shut the door or use your body to block them.
- Repeat these steps several times.
- If you can open the door successfully, release your dog through the doorway

Tips for Wait:

- Be careful not to accidentally shut your dog's nose in the door! Do not slam the door!
- If you are practicing this outside, make sure your dog is on leash.
- Refrain from using treats in this activity, the reward should be what they are waiting for, i.e., the food bowl, going outside.

Go to Your Bed

If you haven't already done so, begin adding the verbal command of "Go to Your Bed". Make sure to follow your verbal command with a hand signal i.e., pointing at the bed.

Stand close to your dog's bed. It helps if your dog is not sitting and they are already moving or standing. Say, "Go to your Bed" and then point to your dog's bed. "Yes" and treat as soon as their paws make contact with the bed.

Now, stand two feet away from your dog's bed and say "Go to your Bed" and point at their bed. Begin walking toward their bed if they haven't done so on their own. Your dog will naturally make contact with the bed as you move toward it. As soon as a paw reaches the bed, "Yes" and treat.

Begin shaping and adding appropriate steps as mentioned in the previous week. Don't rush your dog; take a step back if needed.

Once your dog has fully grasped the meaning of *Go to Your Bed* begin cueing them to lie down and increase duration of how long they can remain on their bed before releasing them.

Take the Show on the Road!

Refer to the "Real Life Training" handout not only this week but after graduation. There are many opportunities to practice training with your dog! This week, find **AT LEAST** three different environment/places to practice basic commands. Write them down and bring with you to class next week to receive 3 Lucky Bones! Whoever has the most written down will receive a prize!

******Graduation is next week! Bring any extra lucky bones for the raffle!******