



## Puppy Intermediate Homework • Week 4

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### Walking Toward a Goal

Set out a toy, a pile of treats, a friend, etc. a short distance away from you and your dog. Whenever your dog is in Close position, move toward the goal. If your dog lunges or gets out of position, top or step backwards as a penalty. Get your dog back into position verbally and with a hand motion, praise, and then move forward again. Continue this way to your goal – or if you see a great moment, mark it with a "Yes!", release, and run to the goal (as long as your dog doesn't pull you before you get there.)

### Wait

Don't proceed forward without permission. "You're not going there." Practice this where you will need it. Doors to outside, car doors, curbs, crates and gates. This is also great at stairways where your dog could get going faster than you or bump you over. Make sure the dog really has stopped motion forward and isn't pulling against the collar or pushing the door. Have your dog watch, release and go through.

Use your body language as a swinging door block. Step into and across the doorway to control it.

You can also use your leash lightly. Move your hand over your dog's head as to stop his momentum as your hand touches the leash. Relax your hand and mark "Yes" and reward when your dog is balanced and in control. This one is especially good for car doors.

### Leave It

While doing leash walking and recalls. Set up a little minefield of temptations. Give your dog verbal instructions on how you want her to leave it. (*example*: "Leave it. Come. Good come. Watch me. Good watch." etc.)

### Stays

Continue balancing the difficulty of your stays with distance, duration and distraction. Try using a different reinforcements than food treats. How about stay, walk away, "yes!" and throw the ball to him.

Do distractions in a small enough quantity or degree of temptation that the dog can be successful.

Gradually build temptation level. Start getting other people to help with the distractions. Be sure to practice in multiple locations.

While doing distance, build up your distance a step or two at a time. Stand up straight. Walk away with confidence. "Yes" her when she's watching you at distance. Remember the "yes" happens when you see the right thing, not when you're going to hand her a treat or toss her toy. The marker "yes" is buying you time to make that distance distinctly the right part and not necessarily you coming back to her. Sometimes walk back in and "yes" her when you're back in heel position.

## Go To Place

Continue from last weeks homework until you can start farther and farther away from different areas of the house and he can still run to his rug and down. Remember you can use this technique to teach him the name of lots of places in the house.

Spend time with him there settling him down by calmly petting and/ or giving him a special chewy. If he leaves, bring him back and ignore him until he relaxes a little longer. Don't make it unbearable. Release while he's calm. Do this every day.

## Passing a Distraction

Every time you pass a dog, cat, children, etc. this week, bring your dog near to you and do a walking watch, reinforce like mad, then release from Watch after you are past them.

## Handling

Practice having people handle your pup. Start with family members, then friends, and eventually people you meet while out and about. Get him used to the top of his head, his ears, feet, muzzle chest, tail, belly and private areas. No area should be off limits. This work is practice for emergencies, grooming, vet exams, etc. Use your vice to help calm and reward your dog. Use treats too. You want to build a positive association and a trusting relationship.

## Random Schedule of Reinforcement

This is an important step in teaching your dog. So far we have been slowly asking the dogs to build on the behaviors we've begun. This will continue. The other part of this is letting the dog know that sometimes you won't get a "yes" and treat- just a verbal "good" and release (break, free.) Maybe a cheerful pat would be nice. The point is to get the dog to keep trying even if he doesn't get something each time. Once he understands he needs to gamble, the behavior gets stronger. He has to try every time to see if he can get you to give him the say "yes" and treat. This builds great attitude. If behavior drops off, he's not being reinforced enough. Keep working. Don't forget the jackpot!

When you're working on making a behavior bigger, you reinforce often – each time it is bigger. If the behavior is just being maintained – Random Schedule of Reinforcement.

## Life Rewards

One way of randomizing your reinforcements is by changing to a variety of rewards. Exciting games with you, access through doors, attention, toys, privileges. Make sure you are doing your voice and hand signals without a cookie visible. Sometimes the reward might be a cookie, but it might be showing the keys for a car ride, pulling a tug toy out of your back pocket, a nice chest scratchy for the dog, or a dance around the back yard. Build up your life reward cues: "Go Play, Sniff, Check It Out, Say Hi, or Get It!" These are all life rewards.

**Remember your trick and Lucky Bones for graduation next week!**