



Intermediate Homework • Week 1

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Welcome Back!

Thanks for coming to class! During this course we will be proofing behaviors your dog already knows and introducing new commands. We want you to get the most out of class so please let us know if there is anything specific you would like to learn and what your goals are for class.

Stay

Remember the three D's? Duration, distraction, and distance. When working on your stays remember to balance all three of these variables. If you are working on distance, decrease the duration of time and possible distractions. If you are working on duration, decrease distractions and distance from your dog. Try practicing with your dog in different positions. After you have worked on sits and downs try asking for a stand stay. Remember to start out with each D separately. It is important that your dog is confident about staying and that you are not asking too much of him.

Goal: My dog will sit and stay for 10 seconds while I pick up his toy that is right next to us.

Verbal Cues and Hand Signals

Practice using your verbal cues and hand signals. Teach this by putting the new cue in front of the old one. Say "down", wait one second, then show him with the hand signal. Mix this up by practicing only with the verbal command and then only with the hand signal. Incorporate the command "stand" into your practice and use other commands such as off, stay, wait, right, left and bow. Your dog is capable of learning as many as 200+ words with your help!

Goal: My dog will sit and down using a verbal command and stand using a hand signal.

Touch

Teach your dog to touch your hand on command. Start by putting a treat on your flat palm and holding it out to your dog. When he touches you by taking the treat say "yes". Do this four more times. Now get your hand smelling like treats and hold it out in the same way. Once he touches you say "yes" and reward. This will take a lot of repetition and patience. Stare at your hand when you want him to touch it. Only introduce the verbal signal "touch" after your dog is reliably touching your hand.

Goal: My dog will touch my hand when I ask him.

Flip Finish

A flip finish is helpful when luring your dog into a heel position. With your dog sitting in front of you place a treat in your left hand. While luring your dog take a step back with your left foot so he ends up behind you on your left side. Now step back into place, still luring him, and ask for a sit. Your dog should have made a mini u-turn at your side. Let him have little licks of the treats throughout the process and practice in stages if you need to. Once he is following your hand reliably now add the verbal cue "flip". Practice next to a wall or x-pen to help your dog line up straight.

Goal: My dog flip finish with a hand signal.

Leave-it and Come (Recall)

Practice asking your dog to leave an item, and then calling him away from it. Start in your house with your dog on leash with plenty of treats. Place an item on the ground you know he will like. As your dog approaches it say "leave-it" and following it up with "come!" After you have practiced in your home, place some items in your yard or on the sidewalk in front of your house. Use things like food wrappers or banana peels and create a scenario you may come across when you are taking your dog for a walk.

Goal: My dog will leave a food wrapper and come to me outside while on leash.

****** Please bring your dog's bed or a rug to class next week. ******

Bring your homework back next week with all the goals checked off and receive five extra Lucky Bones!