



## Intermediate Homework • Week 2

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### Close

Close means your dog should be hanging out with you without pulling on the leash. When practicing close decide where you want your dog to be, and what your verbal signal is (close, let's go, etc.). Before you begin to walk make sure his attention is on you and you have a set amount of leash. Now take one step. If he is still with you then say "yes" and treat. This time take a few more steps. Say "yes" and treat while you are walking, if you only give him a treat when you stop then he will think that's what he is being rewarded for. If at any point the leash gets tight then QUICKLY change directions. Once he catches up with you say "yes" and treat. Help your dog understand that the only way he will be able to get where he wants is by staying with you. Reward your dog and smile when he is getting it right. This is difficult for both of you!

**Goal:** I can walk my dog on a loose leash to get in the car.

### Heel

Heel is different than close. Heel means stay directly at your side traditionally on the left. You can also teach him to stay on your right side but consider calling it something else. Put the lure in your left hand and the leash in your right so it's in front of your body (or hook it around your waist). Lure your dog next to you with his neck lined up to your leg. Say "yes" and treat a couple of times when he is in position before you start walking. Add a physical cue to let your dog know he is heeling and not practicing close. Put your hand near your stomach with your elbow out slightly above your dog. Now take a step. If he is with you then say "yes" and treat.

Start out slow and give lots of treats and verbal praise when he is with you and be sure to release him when you are done practicing. If at any point he gets ahead of you STOP, say "uh-uh", and use your flip finish to get him back in place. Help him stay close to you by practicing next to a wall or x-pen. Walking down a hallway is a great place to practice.

**Goal:** My dog will heel with me when walking down a short hallway.

### Stay

Keep up the practice! Try asking your dog to stay while in different positions. We frequently ask them to stay while they are facing in front of us so try asking them while they are in heel position. Start first with a sit then a down. See if you can walk around your dog and end up back in heel position. If your dog has trouble with this, put a treat on his nose as you are walking around him. Be sure to use your release word every time you are done. Challenge yourself by asking for a stand-stay.

**Goal:** My dog will sit and stay while I walk around him.

## Passing a Dog

Pass dogs you see on the street politely. It is important that your dog looks to you to figure out how to handle situations instead of taking matters into his own paws. Try and avoid walking towards the dog head-on. That is rude in dog language and may pose as a threat. Try to make a little arc while passing and give your dog lots of feedback (“heel”, “watch”, “good job” “watch”, “so nice”). While you are showing your dog this, keep moving so you don’t make it any harder for him. Your goal is to not have your dog react at all. Think about how much distance you need to have success with your dog. Are you able to pass on the sidewalk? Do you need to step off the curb? Do you need to cross the street? Do you need a visual barrier like a hedge or parked car? Each dog will react differently so practice with the one you have!

**Goal:** I can pass a strange dog without my dog reacting with as much distance as we need.

## Come (Recalls)

Try calling your dog past distractions. Be sure your rewards are great when they do come and never call them for anything negative. Practice in different locations so they know the rules apply everywhere. Set up scenarios with items they don’t see that often like umbrellas and suitcases (make sure they don’t see you setting it up) and practice calling them past it. If they are successful reward them and release them so they can go check out the item. Be happy when you practice. Your dog doesn’t want to come to a grouch.

**Goal:** My dog can come when called past an item he hasn’t seen very often.

## Go to Bed/Place

Teaching your dog to go to his bed and settle down can be a very useful command. Designate a spot for him to relax so he can still be a part of the festivities but is not underfoot. Start by getting his bed or a rug, put his leash on, and have lots of treats. Stand next to his bed and toss a treat on it while staring at it (make sure he sees the treat). Hold him back for a brief second then let him go take it. Say “good job” when he does. Repeat this six times. Now pretend to toss a cookie. If he moves to the rug say “yes” and drop a treat on it. Practice this a few times. If your dog does not immediately move to the rug, continue to stare at it and wait for him to offer movement towards it (this may take awhile). As your dog becomes successful now add the cue “go to bed” or “go to place”.

**Goal:** My dog will go stand on his bed when I ask him to.

**\*\*\* 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!*