



Intermediate Homework • Week 3

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Heel

Keep up the practice! Heeling can come in handy in real life situations. If you are walking through a crowded place with your dog ask him to heel with you to get through the crowd. If you see something dangerous on the ground like broken glass or a sharp object, ask him to heel while walking past it and then release him back into a close when you have passed it. Use your environment to help you practice. It is very helpful when lining your dog up to stand next to a wall or a building. With enough repetition your dog should realize how close he should be to you and no longer need the extra help.

Goal: My dog will heel with me for a few steps while on a walk.

Stay

Start upping the distractions while practicing your stays. Ask for a stay while you are preparing his meal. Ask him to stay while you knock on the door or ring the doorbell. If you see a dog or a stroller heading towards you while you are on a walk, ask your dog to stay and watch while it passes. Be sure you are reinforcing him for getting it right and releasing him at the end.

Goal: My dog will sit and stay while I knock on the door.

Release Word

Be sure you are practicing your release word. Practice by putting your dog in a sit or a down stay. Take a few steps of distance and say “release” or the word you have chosen. If your dog gets up reward him. Practice a few more times. Now instead of saying his release word, say a word that has no meaning to him. If he does not get up then go back to him and reward him for staying. If your dog does get up say “uh-uh” and put him back in the stay position. Try proofing this a few times a day. With enough practice your dog is capable of distinguishing even the slightest difference of words.

Goal: I can put my dog in a down stay and say three different words before using his release word and he is successful.

Go to Bed/Place

The next step of teaching your dog to go to bed is asking him to lie down once he gets there. Warm him up a few times by rewarding him for approaching his bed or touching it. Now when he touches his bed either approach him and lure him into a down or show him with a hand signal. Avoid using the verbal command “down” so the cue is only “go to bed” and not “go to bed, down”. With enough repetition your dog should start offering the down. Practice this everyday. If he offers a down on his own reward him with a Kong or chewie he can eat while laying there.

Goal: My dog will go to his bed and lie down with a lure.

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