



Intermediate Homework • Week 4

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Come (Recalls)

Try practicing while playing hide-n-seek with your dog. Put your dog in a down-stay in an area of the house and hide somewhere else with a toy or treats. After you have hidden then call out his release word (avoid saying “come” since it may take awhile for him to find you and you want him to come to you immediately when you use that word). Squeak the toy or whistle if it takes awhile for him to find you, this should get him really excited. Once he finds you have a party and play with the toy. This is a great game that uses his natural instinct to track you down. You can also play this at the park. When he is preoccupied try hiding behind a tree and call his name. This will also keep him checking in with you more incase you disappear on him.

Goal: I can hide in my house and my dog tries to find me.

Stay

Start incorporating distance into your stays. Start with just one step back then return to your dog and reward. Now try two steps back, return, and reward. If he is successful then start increasing the distance. Be sure you are not always backing away from him, moving too slowly, or getting tense. Your dog might think you acting weird and may break his stay to follow you. Be sure you are walking back to him nine out of ten times to release him. Calling him out of a stay may get him too anxious about coming to you and he is more likely to break his stay. Try practicing in different locations around your house and yard. If he is successful then increase the distance slowly each time you practice.

Goal: My dog will sit and stay while I take 15 steps away from him in our yard.

Sit for Guests

Give your dog a verbal cue like “go say hi” or “visit” when you want him to greet a person. If your dog is unsure about someone you know is friendly then set an example by greeting the person first and shaking hands or patting them on the back. Have the guest toss him a treat and act pleased while he eats it. Tell your guest to avoid eye contact and offer him a shoulder instead of approaching head-on. If your dog isn't shy then be prepared for an exuberant greeting. If he is leaping or pulling towards the person then stop and/or change directions. Once he has settled then use your verbal command “go say hi” and approach your guest. You show him how to sit and the guest is the one who gives him a treat and if he stays sitting, a pet. If your dog is exceptionally enthusiastic then try stepping on his leash while he is getting petted. Be consistent and practice with a leash while people come through your front door.

Goal: My dog greeted a guest who came through the front door without jumping on them.

Flip Finish

Practicing the flip finish is a great way to get your dog to focus on you. Trying adding in the cue “front” (getting your dog to sit in front of you and face you) and then ask for a flip finish. Walk with your dog while he is in a heel and throw in a few commands to keep it fun and exciting. With some practice you and your dog can learn some fancy footwork!

Goal: My dog can do a series of commands while doing heelwork.

Look

This one comes in handy when you want your dog to take something off the ground like a piece of food or a ball. Teach this by asking your dog to watch you and drop a treat on the ground without him seeing you do so. After you have given him the treat for watching, now stare at the treat on the ground and tap your foot next to it. While he eats it say “yes”. Practice this a few more times and then add the verbal cue “look” while tapping your foot. This is a fun one and your dog should catch on pretty quick!

Goal: My dog will look at the ground while I tap my foot.

Next week is graduation to be sure to bring:

- Your Lucky Bones for the raffle
- A trick to show off that incorporates shaping or capturing
- A bed or rug for the graduation game
- Your homework with all the goals checked off and receive five extra Lucky Bones!