



Puppy Homework • Week 3

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Name Recognition

Start your name recognition practice while out on walks. First, practice when distraction levels are low. Then, start to practice when you see your dog get a bit distracted (she notices a dog in the distance, or is sniffing the grass, or notices a pedestrian, etc.).

Close (walk on a loose leash)

Give your dog a set length of leash. Hold the leash near your waist. Stand still and wait for attention from your dog and slack in the leash. Say “yes” and reward. Now take one step forward. Say “yes” and reward. Now take a few steps, say “yes” and reward. Continue adding steps as your dog is successful. Keep practice sessions short and then allow the dog to take a break (sniff, etc). With practice and consistency your dog will learn that a loose leash = go and a tight one = stop.

Recalls (“Come!”)

On leash: Call your leashed dog while on walks – both with and without distractions. If your dog is distracted, be sure to use your name recognition to get your pup’s attention, then say “come.”

At home: When your dog is playing, put a lure right in front of her nose, and say “come”. When she arrives in front of you, say "yes" as you touch the collar and let her nibble on the treat.

Now release her to play again. This avoids teaching your dog that every time you call, playtime is over.

Drop/Give (release something from mouth)

First, find a toy your dog likes and will put in her mouth. Offer it to your dog as you say "take it." Make sure you keep hold of the toy. Now offer your dog a yummy treat you know she will love more than the toy and say "drop."

As soon as your dog relinquishes the toy to eat the treat, say "yes" and return the toy to your dog.

Tips:

- Make sure that the majority of the time you give the relinquished object back to your dog. If your dog believes every time you say "drop" she will never get the object back again, she will be more likely to guard the toy and/or run away with it.
- If your dog won't relinquish the item, practice with a less exciting one.
- If your dog enjoys "chase me" games, try to avoid this trap. If she gets something she shouldn't have, do NOT chase her. Instead: teach her to retrieve as a game; ignore her so as not to reward; or try to redirect her attention to an appropriate toy/treat.
- Until your dog is trained, dog-proof your house (pick up socks, remote controls, etc.).

Handling

This week we focus on teaching your pup to allow touches to their mouth, teeth and eye areas. Remember to pair touching with treats. When they are doing well, touch and then treat.