



Puppy Homework • Week 4

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Name Recognition

Hopefully your dog now responds readily when you say his name at home. Continue practicing on leashed walks with your dog. Try increasing the distraction level for your dog by working him a bit closer to distractions (another dog, jogger, cat, etc.).

Remember to say your dog's name one time only. If he does not orient toward you, back up your training and use a lure. You may also need to move farther away from the distraction to help your dog succeed.

Recall Practice

Continue your daily recall practice (refer to previous homework). In addition, try the following:

1. Inside: place toys and treats on shelves throughout the house that you can use as fun and surprising rewards for your recall practice.
2. Teach your dog to keep an eye on you! Play hide & seek with your dog in a safely enclosed area. Wait until your dog is a bit distracted and then hide. Peek out and as soon as your dog starts looking for you, call your dog to come. Give him help if he needs it by stepping out from your hiding spot. When he finds you, reward him with a treat/toy.

Sit for Attention

Dogs often like to say hello and/or seek attention by jumping up on us. Try the following methods to begin teaching your dog polite greeting behavior. If your dog is a real jumper, step on the leash so your dog has just enough to comfortably stand or sit. Before your dog is allowed to interact with a guest, ask your dog to sit. When he does, say "yes" and treat. Now use your release word to indicate your dog can get up and socialize with the person.

You can also teach your dog to hold a sit while a person pets him. Ask your dog to sit. As the person gently pets your dog for a short duration, say "yes" and treat numerous times. Increase the duration of your dog holding the sit accordingly. If your dog is starting to get too excited, use your name recognition and move him away before he jumps. If your dog jumps up during these exercises, say "off" and walk away from the person and try again.

Additional Tips:

- Avoid emotional homecomings and departures.
- Hang a leash near the front door so you'll be prepared to manage your dog's behavior (keep him off) when guests arrive.
- Insist upon an alternate behavior when your dog arrives in front of you or in front of your guest (e.g. "sit" or "down").
- Tell the guest your dog is in training and to only approach/pet if your dog offers a sit. If your dog jumps up, ask the guest to ignore your dog.

- If your dog jumps up, say “ah-ah/off,” turn away from the dog and ignore him until he sits.
- Exercise your dog before company comes over. When the guests arrive, offer your tired dog a stuffed Kong to help keep him busy.
- Do not step on the leash if your dog is fearful of strangers. This will likely increase his fear. Allow him to approach at his own speed when ready.

Handling

This week we will focus on legs, feet and toenails next week. Bring your clippers for a mini lesson!

Reminder:

Keep socializing your puppies! Fill out the socialization checklist in your Resource Guide and bring to class next week for 4 Lucky Bones!