



## Puppy Homework • Week 5

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### Sit & Down: Increasing Duration

1. Cue your dog to sit for one second, say "yes" and reward. Next build a two-second sit and so on. Work to get a five second sit outside.

2. Cue your dog into a down. If your dog remains in a down position when you stand up, build more duration as described above.

If, however, your dog stands up when you do, teach her to hold a down while you stand up. Lure your dog into a down, say "yes" and treat. Now, slightly straighten your knees, say "yes" and treat. Straighten your knees a bit more, say "yes" and treat. Continue this step-by-step process until your dog can remain in a down while you stand up. Now begin to build more duration.

3. Add a release word like "break!" after the "yes" and treat with the above exercises to let the dog know he is finished working. This teaches the dog to hold position and not release himself.

### Food Dish

Teach your dog to love having humans near the food dish! The first time you do this, divide your dog's meal into a couple portions. Place the first portion in the bowl. Wait until your dog is finished eating and then place a high value treat in the bowl. Now pick up the bowl and put the second portion of the meal in the bowl. While your dog is eating place a high value treat in the bowl. If this all goes well, it's a good sign your dog is comfortable with you close to the food dish (see **warning signs** below)

Continue to approach and place a treat in your dog's bowl while she is eating occasionally. Doing this will help teach your dog to welcome your approach during a meal.

Avoid taking the meal away from your dog while he is eating. This is unnecessary, and can teach a dog to start guarding their food.

**WARNING SIGNS:** If you see any stiffness, your dog eating faster when your approach, hard staring or growling, please stop immediately and contact your trainer.

### Grooming & First Aid

Teach your dog to accept (and even like!) grooming and first aid.

- Practice when your dog is tired.
- Build his comfort level slowly first with your hands, then with the equipment (e.g. clippers).
- Use lots of treats! (e.g. touching toe = treat, brush = treat, etc.)
- Trim toenails on a regular basis (every couple/few weeks). Just take off the tips.
- Play dress-up! Put a t-shirt/ace bandage on your dog. Be sure to give your dog treats.

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- Play veterinarian! Examine your dog as a vet would. Use safe, household items as “vet instruments.” Remember to give treats!
- Have a first aid kit ready for emergencies (there are great lists online as to what should go into the kit).

## Trick

Teach your dog a trick to show off at graduation. Some ideas are spin, roll over and shake.

\*\*\*\*\*BRING YOUR LUCKY BONES TO GRADUATION NEXT WEEK FOR THE RAFFLE!\*\*\*\*\*