



Intermediate Homework • Week 1

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Watch

Keep building and work for thirty seconds. Then reduce the time but add distractions one at a time. Release your pup often and celebrate a good job.

Close (Let's Go) – Review

Loose leash walking. Four feet on the floor, short but loose leash, your dog beside you. Decide where Close is for you. All around you? Anywhere but the front? Never on the right?

Reward only where you think it's okay. Deliver the treat on the side of your leg. Work on other walking words for different positions around you.

Positively reinforce every time he is in the right place. This means lots. Mark "Yes" while you are walking. If you "yes" only when you stop walking and he sits, he'll just be really good at sit.

Eventually stretch what he has to stay in position for two steps, then three, between "yes"s. Release and play frequently. Or break into a jog. Anything exciting.

Reward check-ins. It's nice when he glances at you. Smile, praise and reward in other ways.

Change direction a lot if you're likely to lose interest. If he's pretty focused on you, go straight for a while. Gradually add more steps between times you "yes" and treat.

Leave It

Review leaving a treat or toy from your hand. Build up amount of time. Be sure to have a "take it" release for when it's okay. Work that by next week you can have it on a flat palm and your dog will look away and pull back from it when you say, "Leave it" and knows its okay when you say "Take it."

Next, say "Leave it" and drop one on the floor. Prevent him from getting it with the leash. Say "yes" and treat when the leash is loose and he turns his head toward you. Later practice leaving toys, slippers, open garbage cans, sandwiches, or cat litter boxes. Drop a pocketful of biscuits on the floor and practice walking through the "mine field."

Just saying "leave it" will not be enough help. Ask for "close," "come," "sit and watch," etc. to give more information and help him be successful.

Bring to class next week:

- One dog. Hungry (no dinner before class), recently pottied, exercised and brushed (clean).
- Buckle collar and 4' to 6' leash. Head collar is okay too.
- Marking word ("yes!" or ?)
- Water and bowl
- Three types of soft food lures. Chunks and bits. Include some regular kibble.
- Carrying pouch or container.
- Two current favorite toys.
- Release word (Break, Free, All Done, etc.).

Use this on walks past other dogs. At first you will probably have to get off the trail and use "leave it, sit and watch" all together. Keep your leash short but loose and insist and help the dog watch you with your animated voice. Loosen the leash whenever he looks at you.

"Yes" and treat often, then release and play when the other dogs are gone. Remember after some Leave its, he gets to see and sniff when he does the right thing.

Coming When Called (Recall)

Recall. Call your dog ten times a day from a no distraction environment this week. Make sure there are good reasons to come. Make it fun, food, or frolic.

Recall with U-Turn. Come from distractions. This week practice short distance U-turn recalls away from small distractions. Back up at least fifteen steps. Start with the distraction fairly far away and work until you can be fairly close to it. Use your Leave it command as well to help out.

Settle

Put your dog on leash. Get some treats and go sit in a chair. Step on your dog's leash where it hits the ground with him standing comfortably. Ignore him. Wait for him lie down. "yes" and drop him a treat. If he continues to lie down, "yes" and drop another. Wait a few seconds. Continue your pattern.

Sit Stay-Front and Sit Stay-Heel Position

Practice your stays this week in both positions, paying special attention to your dog in heel position. This position is less rewarding for your dog because he can't see you as well and can easily think he's being ignored. Pet him a lot while he's there. Throw his toy for him when he's in that position as you release him. Build your stays slowly. First your duration of time, then for distraction, then for a small amount of distance.

Sit-Stay "Slowly Descending Cookie Torture"

- Have your dog sit. Start with a treat or toy over their head. "Yes" and reward for holding the sit.
- Then go again, say "Stay" and lower the treat/toy a little ways. When they hold still, "yes" and reward.
- Set them up again. When your dog is good at this, see if you can do it with a hand over their head until you can lower it and pet them on the head. "Yes" and reward the successes.

"Pledge Allegiance to the Dog"

Train/Prep your guests ahead of time.

- Stand on your dog's leash with just a bit of slack in it.
- The guest approaches the dog from the front.
- As he walks forward, he says "Hi, Fred" (or whoever the dog is).
- The guest brings his treat up, in an arc to his heart (The Klingon Salute.)
- If at any point the dog bounces up, the guest goes back and starts over.
- If the dog sits, she gets a treat and a pet.
- This is an all-or-nothing reward – do it right to get the attention, pet and treat.