



## Beginning Homework • Week 2

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### Generalization

Dogs have a difficult time generalizing, especially when it comes to new commands. It can be difficult for a dog to perform a familiar command in a different environment or scenario. For example, when we first teach our dog to sit, they have learned to perform this command by sitting directly in front of us. When we expect our dogs to sit by our side, (perhaps for a heel) most dogs will naturally make the adjustment to sit in front of you. We want our dogs to learn these commands in various contexts. This week, have your dog sit in five different rooms/places. Start easy – inside your home and move outside when they're ready. Practice every time you take them out.

### Name Game

- Begin gradually adding distractions. Start by adding in name recognition on walks. Remember to only say the name once!
- Say your dog's name one time, if they turn to you within 1-2 seconds "yes" and treat.
- If they don't turn toward you, put your treat lure on their nose and use it to turn them towards you, once they turn, "yes" and treat.
- Don't be surprised if you end up luring your dog to get it right more often than at home.

### Watch

Your dog should now watch at home without a lure (treat in hand). You can test this by holding a treat out to the side and say, "Watch."

- Practice in more distracting environments (front porch, yard, walks)
- Start using a variety of life rewards (besides food) to keep your dog guessing.
- Write down five life rewards, you use during the week, bring to class next week.

### Sit

Once your dog consistently lures into a sit, you are ready to add a visual signal.

- Say "sit" followed by a visual hand signal, "yes" and treat once they sit. This will help decrease the use of a treat lure.

### Down

- From a sit position, take a long treat and hold it in front of their nose.
- Say, "down" and allow them to nibble or lick the treat as you slowly lure their nose down towards the ground by aiming between their toes.
- When they lay down, say "yes" and give treats and pets.
- If your dog pops up before getting into the down, remove your hand/treat, reset and try again.
- Once your dog can lure into position consistently, practice without a lure in your hand. Say "down" pause briefly and use your hand signal. Once in a down, "yes" and treat.
- If your dog does not immediately drop into position, "yes" and treat for every correct movement toward a down.

## Loose Leash Walking

Dogs pull on leash because they are rewarded for doing so. We follow along after them. Try the “Stop and Go” technique.

- Hold the end of the leash firmly near your waist. Stand still and once your dog is paying attention to you, “yes” and treat.
- Now take one step forward when there is slack in the leash, say “yes” and treat. Use your treat as a bumper for your dog’s nose so they don’t go past your leg. Your treat is in the hand on the side your dog is walking.
- Take two steps, “yes” and treat. Continue adding steps as your dog is successful.
- If your dog starts pulling on the leash or there is tension, stop, say, “uh oh” and immediately stop walking. Use your treat or pat your leg to help reset your dog next to you and try again.
- With practice and consistency, your dog will learn a loose leash = go and a tight leash = stop

### ***Tips:***

- Practice in a low distraction environment.
- Verbal feedback is helpful for walking, remind how awesome they are for being next to you.
- Ask for “sit” and “watch” during walks or provide mental breaks if you have a busy dog.
- Lock and load with treats!! Don’t catch yourself without a treat!

## Recall (come)

Set your dog up to be successful EVERY time! If you say “come” and your dog doesn’t do it, you are quickly training your dog not to come. Make sure you follow through in your training every time. And remember, coming should always be great fun for your dog. Get that tail wagging!

- Make recall into a game. Start in a non-distracting environment. Have a partner hold your dog’s leash while you get them excited, take several steps back, and then call them to “come!” immediately praise and each partner rewards them when they get to you.
- If you have success, turning away and running a short distance and call them.

### ***Tips:***

- Always call your dog for something positive (treats, toys, games).
- At first, only call your dog when you can guarantee it will happen. Practice this activity inside first, and then try it in your backyard.
- Practice on your own whenever your dog is distracted; otherwise utilize a partner when you can!
- If you don’t have a partner, you can throw a treat a short distance away, once your dog has eaten it get their attention and call them to “come!”
- Practice calling your dog while on a walk.
- Remember to mix it up! Avoid just practicing one way or always using the same treats. Using a variety of exciting rewards and recall games will keep your dog interested.