

WEEK 5: EXERCISES & HOMEWORK



TOUCH TARGET FOR GREETING CONTROL

1. Greeter approaches the dog, and extends hand for greeting. Greeter should hold hand low enough that the dog does not need to jump to sniff it.
2. Dog does not need to hold any position, but should not be jumping. As dog does a "touch", handler (you) will click, and then deliver a treat to your dog.
 - a. Remember, the timing of the click should occur while the dog is doing the touch.
 - b. In the early stages, it's likely that the dog will not look back at you, in which case, you still want to follow the click by delivering the treat to the dog within a second or two of the click (no matter where they are). Over time, your dog will start to understand that you are the reward here.
3. Repeat many times with various "strangers". You will notice that the novelty of greetings begins to wane and that your dog simply begins to offer a patterned "Touch" behavior followed by reorienting to you.
4. After your dog is doing really well with this, begin to add duration into the time the stranger sticks with you. They will hang out and chat, and you will click and reward your dog for maintaining appropriate behavior. Click and reward at whatever interval is necessary and then decrease click/treats with praise as successful.

APPROACH AND RETREAT FOR GREETINGS

1. Handler holds dog on set-length leash.
2. Greeter, lure the dog into a sit. Pay several times.
3. Greeter, take one step back and re-approach. If the dog stays seated, reward. If the dog pops up, leave.
4. Take 2 steps and return,
5. 3 steps and return etc.
6. Begin adding vocalizations

Your goal is to teach the dog that the only behavior that works is staying seated (or down). Jumping up causes you to leave immediately.

WEEK 5 HOMEWORK

ADDING 10FT DISTANCE TO DOWN-STAY

The purpose of this exercise is to increase distance to your stay. You can think of this exercise as a "Bungee Stay" in that as soon as you hit distance, you're bouncing right back to the dog to pay. No dilly dallying. Out and back!

1. Begin taking 1 step away from your dog at varying angles for a set of 5.

a. 1 step out, return, mark, feed. Feed for each rep.

2. 2 steps away

3. 3 steps away

4. 4 steps away

5. 5 steps away

6. 6 steps away

7. 7 steps away

8. 8 steps away

9. 9 steps away

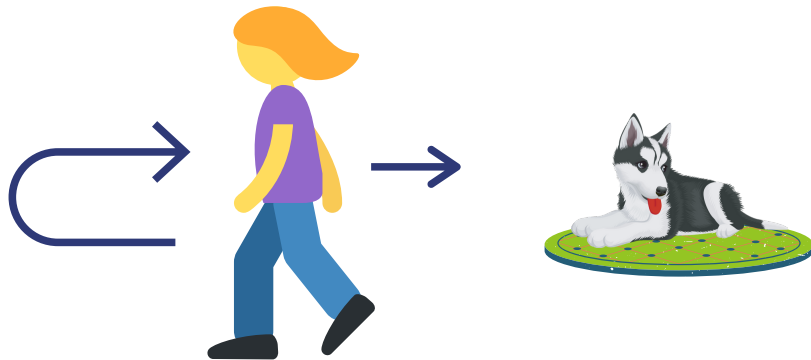
10. 10 steps away etc.

11. Repeat until you are able to walk 10 ft away from your dog in various directions for zero duration at 10 ft. Again, the only duration should be how long it takes you to walk away and return to your dog.

- Use Push / Drop / Stick Rules with this plan. Split as needed.
- Once you've worked through 10ft in one room, go to a new location and start over. Think living room, bedroom, basement, kitchen, garage, backyards etc.

Trainer Observation: *I've noticed that right about now is when people start getting greedy, they start skipping repetitions in the 5 set, or jumping from 2 steps to 5 steps, etc. It takes discipline to stick to the rules, but I promise, it's worth the investment. If you start going off the plan, it can be difficult to troubleshoot where you went wrong. We always want the behavior to trend successful before increasing difficulty.*

**1 successful rep does not = a trend.
Do right by your puppy. Stick to the plan.**



WEEK 5 HOMEWORK

NEW LOCATIONS

For the skills you've been working in in previous weeks, I'd like you to move them to a slightly more distracting setting. Perhaps the backyard, or even in the garage with the garage door open.

If you're finding your dog is struggling to focus on you, here's a quick tip. Let them explore that room or space for a good, long while. This is a method called "Saturation" which means we're giving the dog their fill of the environment, or saturating them to it so it loses its novelty. When they've had their fill, we will then commence training.

PLAY CATCH UP

If you've fallen behind on any of your skills, take some time to catch them up this week. There is no race, of course, but do what you can!

*Remember, success is
your #1 priority! Always
keep that in mind!*



**I ruff working
with you!**