Elementary Clicker Training Class Session Five Homework

New Behaviors:

Let's Walk – Read over "Let's Walk" in your book. Choose a method you want to use: Stop/Redirect, Goal Method, Luring, or Catch Me. You can use all of these methods and inter-mix them in a training session. Begin walking your dog on leash. Remember, you want to teach your dog to walk on a loose leash, so the leash must have some slack in it. Begin working on walking 10 feet or so, then increase the distance to 20 feet. Use your head collar or no-pull harness if you have one. Click and treat often for a loose leash.

Heel – You can also choose to teach your dog to heel. One method is to use the target stick in which case you must teach "touch" first. You can also use the shaping method. I usually teach this behavior off lead in a safe, fenced area (or even the house at first). Once you add the leash, remember generalization, and work with your dog a little while with a leash until he understands heel is both for off-leash and on-leash work.

Door Rushing – Read over the section on "Door Rushing" in this book. Decide whether you will work on a "sit-stay" or a "wait" cue at the door. Work with your dog to make sure she either sits and stays or waits (does not move forward) at the door until she is invited out. When working with problem behaviors, remember you need to be consistent. You cannot let your dog barrel out the door one minute and expect her to stay quietly the next. Work on this every time you leave. Also, set up specific training sessions several times this week to work on waiting or staying at the door.

Wait – Work with "wait" when getting in and out of the car, or going out a gate, door, etc.

Handling – This week start working with your dog's paws and tail, and begin to slowly desensitize your dog to nail clipping or filing, grooming, or bathing.

Review & Expand:

"Leave-It/Take-It" – Progress to Step 3 this week, placing the food item on the floor in front of your shoe.

Continue practicing and progressing on all behaviors learned to date. Review the applicable section in this book on each behavior to determine how to progress. Make sure you are not luring too often. If your dog is still requiring a lure, work towards fading the lure. Offer it less and less often. Offer hand signals to help your dog; they are a natural outgrowth of the luring movement. If your dog will not perform without food, "turn the tables." Lure with food, then praise, but do not click and treat. Now, lure without food; if you get the behavior, click and treat. This will change the whole game and may get your dog performing without a lure.

Reading

Concepts:
Chapter 5
Handling (p. 66)
Body Blocking (p. 69)
Chapter 8

Interrupt and redirect behaviors (p. 130)

Gentle Touch Pet Training



Behaviors: Let's Walk (p. 91) Heel (p. 96) Wait (p. 112) Door Rushing (p. 142) Leave-It/Take-It Step 3 (p. 107)

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