
Elementary Clicker Training Class
Session Two Homework

Continue your daily training sessions.

New Behaviors:

Self-Control Exercises – Practice “Calming Ovals” and “Parking” this week to help teach your dog self-control. Also practice walking “Getting From Point A to Point B” when necessary.

Head Collar/No-Pull Harness – If you are using a head collar, or no-pull harness spend time getting your dog used to the new equipment this week, including walking when wearing the device. If you walk your dog this week, use your head collar or harness, keeping your dog fairly close to you. Do not allow pulling and do not use an extendable leash for teaching walking. Pick a side to walk your dog on, either left or right. The left side is the most commonly used side. Be consistent, whichever side you choose. Just get your dog used to the new equipment and practice walking as demonstrated in class. We will progress further with this behavior in two weeks.

Down – Teach your dog to lie down on cue this week. Read over the “Down” section in this book. You can work with capturing this behavior, shaping it or luring it. If you lure, fade the food as quickly as possible.

Leave-it/Take-It – Review this section of your handbook. Begin teaching “leave-it” and “take-it.” Progress to the next level only after your dog is successful at the current level. For instance, start with a closed fist (step 1) and make sure that’s working before progressing to an open hand (step 2). If your dog is having problems, drop back to the prior step and reinforce that behavior before moving on.

Problem Behavior – Jumping Up – Review this section of this book, and use one of the methods outlined to begin teaching your dog to sit to greet people. I prefer the tether method as you can avoid the jumping up behavior altogether and, therefore, bypass possibly reinforcing a chained behavior of jump up and, then, sit.

Trick – “Shake”

Review Behaviors:

Attention – If you want to add a cue to this behavior, you can add “watch” this week. Otherwise, this can be trained as a default behavior. Have your dog look at you progressively longer. You can also begin moving a little and see if your dog can keep attention on you while you move slightly (back and forth to start).

Sit – Continue reviewing sit. If you are getting the sit behavior readily, you can add the cue (hand signal or verbal) if you’re ready, and begin helping your dog generalize by changing location/body posture, etc.

Reading

Concepts:

Chapter 2

Head Collars (p. 22)

No-Pull Harness (p. 24)

Chapter 8

Train a Different Behavior (p. 128)

Chapter 9

Jumping Up (p. 139)

Behaviors:

Down (p. 83)

Leave-It/Take-It (p. 107)

Shake (p. 120)

Review:

“Parking Your Dog” (p. 30)

“Getting From Point A to Point B” (p. 30)

Exercise:

My dog’s distracted by ...

Write down everything that distracts your dog, from a leaf falling to a car to something you can’t get her away from. Instead of saying “my dog won’t do this when ...,” let’s work on making the distractions a part of our training. Prioritize distractions with 1 being least distracting and a 10 being very distracting. Now, you can introduce distractions in a systematic way. Don’t go from a 1 to a 10. You need to move systematically from least distracting to most distracting. Do not put your dog in a situation where the distraction is greater than her level of training. Remember, we want to set our dogs up for success. If you’ve moved too quickly, don’t blame your dog! For now, the rule will be the higher the distraction the better the treat!