
Elementary Clicker Training Class
Session Four Homework

New Behaviors:

Take Hold of Collar – Work with your dog on “take hold of collar” this week.

Long-Distance Recall – You can continue increasing the distance between two people on the relay “come” exercise we learned. This week you should be able to put your dog within a fenced area, attach the long line, and call your dog from increasing distances. Once you’ve worked in a fenced area, in subsequent weeks, you can move eventually to the front yard, park, beach, etc. If your dog does not respond, you can ignore her for a short time before performing the exercise again. Set yourself up for success, so you may need to move closer this time and, perhaps, have a better treat. Remember do not call your dog to punish her. I do not recommend letting your dog off leash outside a fenced area until you have a reliable recall.

Stay – Review the instructions on “stay” in this book. Work with stay this week. Your goal is to work up to a 30 second stay while standing up to 10 feet away. Remember work on time and distance and distractions separately and progress slowly. Start with your dog either in a down or a sit (whichever your dog likes best). Once you have a stay in that position, begin working the other position. For instance, if you started with “down, stay,” progress to “sit-stay” as soon as you have a reliable “down-stay.”

Go to Bed – Shape this behavior as demonstrated in class. Review this section in this book. This is a great exercise to teach self-control, so don’t skip it.

Puppy Push-ups – You can begin practicing “sit,” “down,” and “stand” in a series of behaviors which we call “Puppy Push-ups.” Remember, your dog can sit from a stand or a down; they can lie down from either a sit or a stand, and stand up from a sit or a down.

Tug-and-Calm Game – Play the self-control game “Tug and Calm” and begin teaching your dog how to bring down his own arousal level.

Trick-“Bow” or “Spin”

Review and Expand:

Touch-Target Stick – Make sure your dog can do a hand “touch” and that you’ve added the cue. Now, introduce a target stick. Have him touch, and then follow the target stick.

Leave-it/Take-it – Progress to Step 2 of “Leave-It/Take-It” using an open hand.

Continue progressing with the behaviors we have worked on so far: attention, sit, down, stand, touch, leave-it/take-it and come. Review the individual instructions on each of these and progress accordingly. Is your dog performing these behaviors consistently? Have you added the cue? Generalize behaviors by moving around the house, changing your orientation to your dog and using different postures (for example, you sit instead of stand) when you give the cue. Remember to use your release word such as “go play!” when the training session is over. Also, be sure to do your training before you feed the morning or evening meal. If your dog is hungry, he or she will pay closer attention to you. Also, start working with problem behaviors as appropriate when they occur and set them up in a training session.

Reading

Concepts:

Chapter 2

Long Lines (p. 25)

Chapter 4

Shaping Guidelines (p. 46)

Varying the Reinforcement Schedule and Rewards (p. 51)

Chapter 8

Remove something pleasant (negative punishment) (p. 129)

Behaviors:

Take Hold of Collar (p. 86)

Puppy Push-ups (p. 85)

Long Distance Recall (p. 89)

Go to Bed (p. 103)

Stay (p. 98)

Leave-It/Take-It – Step 2 (p. 107)

Bow (p. 124)

Spin (p. 125)