

REVIEW

Name Recognition, Watch, Sit, Down and Leave It

NEW EXERCISES:

CORRECT HEEL AND LEASH POSITION

Dog on the left with head/neck lined up with the seam in your left pants leg. Right thumb through the leash loop held in right hand, leash draped across your body and held loosely in left hand.

CONTROLLED WALKING WITH VARIED PACES: START, STOP, ABOUT TURN

Start by telling your dog, "Dog, Let's Walk" and take off in a brisk, happy manner. Keep your dog's attention on you by using your voice and treats. When commanded to stop, say "Dog, Sit". Take off again with, "Dog, Let's Go". When commanded to "About Turn," turn to your right 180 degrees. You are now going in the opposite direction. Keep your dog with you using happy praise and treats.



CLOSE

Have your treat and leash in your left hand and say, "Dog, Close". Keep your right foot stationary as you step back with left foot while luring dog back with treat. Turn your dog towards you and as your dog comes forward, bring your left foot forward even with your right foot. Think of making a "U" shape. When dog is comfortable with this movement, add a sit command as he comes into heel position. Praise, reward and release.

RECALLS ON 6' LEASH

Sit dog and walk out to end of your 6' leash. Say, "Dog, come," and step back. Be animated and exciting; use your voice and body language to convey that it is a wonderful thing for your dog to come to you. Remember to always praise and reward when dog comes. There are no distractions at this level.

TRADE

Give dog a toy and play with dog. When toy is in dog's mouth, tell dog, "Dog, trade". Remove toy from dog's mouth by placing treat on dog's nose and praise. Give dog delicious, small treat. We want to convey to the dog that it is a good thing to give up his possession when asked.

Remember to always praise your dog verbally before you give him food rewards. If you feed before giving your verbal praise, your dog may never learn to work without the food and just for your praise alone.

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JUMPING UP ON PEOPLE

INSIST that all members of the family greet the dog in the same way. It is unfair for the dog to be allowed to jump up on one member of the family and not on others.

Practice feeding many treats while dog is in a sit as people approach. Dog can't jump if sitting.

NIPPING AT HEELS

It is your responsibility to teach the dog that this is not acceptable behavior when he is living with a human family - he is not herding a flock of sheep.

Corrections for Nipping At Heels:

1. Startle the dog with a loud "Hey" and clap of your hands.
2. Reach down and hold him by the scruff of the neck, give him a firm shake and tell him "OFF".
3. As you hear him approaching from behind, wait until he is just about to reach for your ankle with his mouth and quickly turn around and move toward him saying "OFF".



TEACHING NOT TO TOUCH

Teaching your dog not to jump up on people and to stay off the furniture begins by teaching him "not to touch". We use the word Leave to mean don't touch. Begin by positioning yourself on the floor with your dog. Gain his interest by giving him a free treat and then begin his lesson.

Offer him the treat and then when he starts to take it, say, "Leave". If he does not back off the treat immediately, say "Leave" more forcefully and tap his muzzle. After three seconds, give your dog permission to take the food with an "Okay" command. As your dog begins to understand the exercise, increase the time he must wait before he can take the food. The "Leave" command can also be used to prevent the dog from playing rough with your children.

CORRECTIONS FOR MOUTHING

1. Tap him UNDER the chin, with a firm "NO".
2. With a firm "NO", grab the dog by the scruff of the neck and shake him.
3. Grab him by the muzzle, give a quick squeeze and then release him while saying "NO".

Praise the dog as soon as the mouthing stops and divert his attention by giving him a favorite bone or toy to chew on. Immediately stop all interaction when you feel teeth on skin. Walk away or give dog a short time out.

TEACHING NOT TO BITE

All dogs are potential biters. Biting is a natural behavior for dogs. It is up to you to teach your dog that biting is totally unacceptable to you.

At this age, dogs bite and mouth while playing and it is through this play that they learn that biting hurts. Teaching your dog not to bite involves four steps:

1. NO HARD BITING: While you are playing with your dog, allow him to mouth your fingers. When he bites hard, say "OW" in a loud voice and quit playing for a few seconds. Resume playing, but reinforce "OW" every time he bites hard.
2. NO PRESSURE AT ALL: Once your dog is no longer biting hard, continue the "OW" lesson every time he applies any pressure at all.
3. DOGS MAY NOT INITIATE MOUTHING: At this point, mouthing should NEVER be initiated by the dog and no one should play with him in such a way that he is encouraged to bite on people's hands. Remember, all fun interaction stops if you feel teeth on skin.

COMMON MISBEHAVIORS AND WHAT TO DO

- RUSHING OUT OF EXIT DOOR: Use sit stay and door corrections
- STEALING FOOD: Correct sniffing and set up situations to reinforce leave it
- CHEWING ON ANYTHING: Use the "Leave it" command, play the "Trade" game and dog proof home.
- UNDERFOOT, WON'T MOVE OUT OF YOUR WAY: Ignore your dog and deliberately but carefully shuffle into him if he fails to move out of your way. If this doesn't work, perhaps you need to lower your dogs position in the pack a bit.
- BEGGING FOR FOOD: Have your dog do a down stay during meals. Never ever feed your dog from the table if you do not want your dog to beg for food there.
- GETTING ON THE FURNITURE: Teach the off command
- GREETINGS ARE TOO ENTHUSIASTIC: Sit before being greeted, every time for several weeks don't touch your dog unless he sits first.



While holidays such as the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's can bring us much celebration and joy, they can also offer some potential hazards to our pets. Here are some of the things that are potentially dangerous to your pet.

Aluminum Foil

When ingested, aluminum foil can cut a dog's intestines, causing internal bleeding, and in some cases, even death.

Anti-Freeze

If ingested, anti-freeze (ethylene glycol) is often lethal -- even in very small quantities. Because many dogs and cats like its sweet taste, there are an enormous number of animal fatalities each year from animals drinking anti-freeze. Poisoning from anti-freeze is considered a serious medical emergency, which must be treated by a qualified veterinarian IMMEDIATELY. Fortunately, the Sierra Company now offers a far less toxic form of anti-freeze. They can be reached at 1-888-88-SIERRA.

Bones

Cooked bones from steak, veal, pork, turkey or chicken, as well as ribs, can be hazardous to your dog and are not recommended.

Chocolate

Chocolate contains an element that is toxic to dogs, called Theobromine. Even an ounce or two of chocolate can be lethal to a small dog (10 lbs. or less). Larger quantities of chocolate can poison or even kill a medium or large dog. Dark and unsweetened baking chocolates are especially dangerous. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning include: vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, hyperactivity and seizures. During many holidays such as Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter and Halloween, chocolate is often accessible to curious dogs, and in some cases, people unwittingly poison their dogs by offering them chocolate as a treat.

Corn Cobs

Many dogs have suffered and, in some cases, died after eating corn-on-the-cob, when the corncob caused partial or complete intestinal obstruction. Never allow your dog access to corncobs.

Electrocution

Christmas tree lights and electrical cords can be fatal if chewed on by a dog (or cat). Whenever possible, keep electrical cords out of reach.

Fireworks

Never unnecessarily expose your pet to firecracker noise or fireworks displays, as they can cause companion animals tremendous fear, and in many cases, long-term phobias. Make sure to keep dogs indoors, and keep walks (on a leash) very brief. Try masking loud firecracker noises with "white noise" (from the air conditioner or white noise machine), as well as with music or other familiar sounds (radio or television). If possible, take a brief vacation with your pet in a quiet rural area, until the fireworks are over. Have your dog wear a Thunder Shirt which mimics swaddling a baby.

Hypothermia

When a dog's internal temperature drops below 96 degrees F (by being exposed to cold weather for long periods, or getting both wet and cold), there is a serious risk to the dog's safety. Small and shorthaired dogs should wear sweaters when taken for walks during cold winter weather. Any sign that a dog is very cold -- such as shivering -- should signal the owner to bring the dog indoors immediately.

Ice-Melting Chemicals and Salt

Ice-melting chemicals and salt placed across sidewalks and roads can cause severe burning to your dog's footpads. Whenever possible, avoid walking your dog through these substances, and wash off his footpads when you return home. There are also products available such as Musher's Secret, which can be applied to your dog's footpads before going outside that may help reduce the pain that is often caused by road salt and chemicals.

Poisonous Plants

Dogs (and cats) can become extremely ill or even die from eating poisonous plants. Keep all unknown types of plants and any plants suspected of being poisonous out of reach of your pet, and/or spray with Bitter Apple (for plants). [See www.peteducation.com for a partial list of poisonous plants.]

Plastic Food Wrap

Plastic food wrap can cause choking or intestinal obstruction. Some dogs will eat the plastic wrapping when there are food remnants left coating its surface.

Tinsel and Other Christmas Tree Ornaments

When ingested by a dog (or cat), tinsel may cause obstruction of the intestines, and the tinsel's sharp edges can even cut the intestines. Symptoms may include decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, listlessness, and weight loss. Treatment usually requires surgery.

Training Collars

Remove your dog's training collars whenever left unsupervised or crated. Never tie your dog by attaching a leash or tether to your dog's training collar. Always use a flat buckle collar when tying your dog, and then only when supervised. Never leave your dog tied and unsupervised in front of stores, restaurants or supermarkets, as they can be harassed, poisoned or stolen.