

**NEW EXERCISES**

- Stand
- Come – formal on long line
- Close – Puppy will follow a treat (held in your left hand) into the heel position.
- Retrieve

**PLAY TIME**

It sometimes helps to do a few name response exercises prior to playing recall games with puppies.

- Make coming to you fun and rewarding.
- Try the round robin game.
- Excite the puppy and run.
- Play TUG: You are winning when your puppy is moving toward you or you end the game and put the tug toy away. NOTE: Suspend tug games while teething.
- Retrieve for fun and rewards
- Wanna-trade command (trade for item with your best treat)
- Save special toys to use when you are too tired to play.

**RULES FOR TUG AND OTHER ROUGH PHYSICAL GAMES**

Because rough housing and tug games are one of the ways that young dogs use to test pack position, it is important not to play rough or tug games if...

- ...you cannot control the game or the intensity of the game
- ...you are having trouble with aggression.
- ...you cannot control how the game is played.
- ...you lose more than you win.
- ...you are not the one who ends the game.

Make sure you play only as vigorously as you are comfortable with, puppies will take the lead from you.

**REMEMBER**

- Continue to integrate sit and down into your daily life.
- Continue controlled walking. Remember to have your dog sit when you stop.

**RETRIEVE**

Step 1: Teach the last command first. The commands are, Take It or Get It, Come, Give.

- Put a ball, toy in the puppy's mouth.
- Take it out give and give him a treat.
- As soon as your puppy begins to open his mouth on his own to receive the toy, add the command "Get It" as you move the toy toward his mouth.
- Say the command "Give" as you remove the toy from his mouth.
- Continue until your puppy eagerly opens his mouth to receive the ball every time and as eagerly releases it for the treat.

Step 2: Hold toy in front of your puppy and level with his mouth.

- Say the command "Take It".
- Say the command: "Give" and offer a cookie at the same time.

Step 3: Increase distance.

- Hold the toy approximately two feet in front of your puppy at eye level and command, "Take It". Encourage him to move forward and take it on his own.
- When he has the toy in his mouth say the command, "Give" and reward him with a cookie.

Move to Step 4 when your puppy eagerly moves forward to get the toy, in front, off to the left, and off to the right.

Step 4: Begin lowering the toy below the puppy's eye level and repeat step 1 and 2, until your puppy is retrieving from the floor.

The remaining retrieve steps will not be taught during this class.  
These steps are on the last page of this week's lesson.

**ALTERNATE RETRIEVE METHOD (great for young puppies)**

Step 1: Place a treat inside of an empty toilet paper roll; fold both ends so that the treat will not fall out. Toss it on the floor in front of your puppy and let him play with it and get the treat himself.

Step 2: Repeat step one but this time as soon as your puppy picks up the treat filled toilet paper roll in his mouth offer him his favorite treat (a piece of meat, chicken, cheese, something he really likes a lot) and trade for the cookie. Do this by holding the good treat near his nose.

Step 3: When he trades give him lots of praise along with the treat.

Step 4: When he understands the trade game go to Step 5 of the first method.

## **YOUR PUPPY WON'T GIVE UP TOY**

Here are some methods to get your puppy to open his mouth so that you can take whatever he is holding:

1. Apply pressure above his lips at the back of his mouth pushing gums onto the tips of his teeth. The pain of those sharp puppy teeth will cause him to release the object.
2. Blow a big puff of air into your puppy's nose; will cause him to open his mouth.
3. Lick your fingers and wipe the saliva onto your puppy's nose (some puppies find the smell of human saliva disgusting and will open their mouth to breathe).

### **NOTE**

NEVER get into a battle with your puppy over something he doesn't want to give up. If the item that he has in his mouth is something that your puppy really wants to keep, he may feel that it is worth fighting for and react aggressively. This is normal healthy behavior in a puppy pack, especially when food or bones are involved. Since we do not want to get into a dominance battle with our puppies, it is better to outwit them in this situation.

Trust your instincts if you sense tension in your puppy over your desire to take something from him. He may clench down harder when you take hold of it or won't drop it when you verbally correct with a sharp exclamation of indignation. Instead of trying any of the three things listed above, remain calm and in an upbeat happy voice say something like, "You silly boy/girl, I bet you'd rather have this cookie instead!" and offer a large treat close to his nose. A big cube of cheese, lunchmeat, cooked chicken or meat, or a small bowl of something tasty is usually more desirable than a bone, or toy. When he drops the item, continue happy prattle and with the treat lead him a step or two away from dropped item. Step between him and the dropped item before you release the treat. As he is eating your treat, quickly and quietly pick up the item and place it up and out of sight so that he does not notice.

## **IMPRESS YOUR NEIGHBORS – TEACH YOUR PUPPY TO GET THE NEWSPAPER**

After your puppy has learned to retrieve from the floor, you can easily start to teach him to get the newspaper for you. Save a small section of the paper, and the plastic bag that the paper came in.

- Step 1: Put the folded smaller section of the paper back into plastic bag that it came in, place it at the end of your driveway and then get your puppy.
- Step 2: Walk your puppy on a leash to where you have placed the paper.
- Step 3: Touch it with your finger and say your retrieve command, "Get It".
- Step 4: Encourage the puppy with your voice to pick it up.
- Step 5: When he picks up the paper, offer him a treat (this is the same as the trade game).

**(Additional steps next page)**

### IMPRESS YOUR NEIGHBORS (continued)

- Step 6: When he is able to retrieve it every time from a few feet away, change your command to, "Paper, Get It".
- Step 7: Finally, drop the command get it and just say "Paper".
- Step 8: Follow retrieve steps, increasing the distance, until you can stand at the door, hair a mess, in your robe, coffee in one hand and a puppy treat in the other. WHOOPEE!

Never send your puppy to get the paper without a long line attached his collar until you are sure, no matter what happens, your puppy will come when called.

### FUN WITH RETRIEVE

- Help pick up toys.
- Pick up anything that you drop.
- Deliberately drop things to teach this. Spoons, brushes, money, your keys, use your imagination; you are only limited by what your puppy can comfortably carry.
- Pass notes to other family members.
- Pick up things that drop out of the laundry basket on the way to the washing machine.
- Carry a basket full of treats for your guests.
- Have fun with this. Puppies love to have a job and, best of all, they love making you smile.

### REMAINING STEPS TO TEACHING THE RETRIEVE

- Step 5: Slip your hand into your puppy's collar with your palm facing out (to keep him from retrieving before you give the command) and toss a toy a few feet in front of your puppy.
- Step 6: Give the command, "Take It" then quickly remove your hand from the collar and give your puppy a quick push forward on his rear to encourage a quick retrieve. Phase the push out when he gets up fast enough to make it difficult to give the push.
- Step 7: As your puppy's head lowers to pick up the toy, add the command. "Puppy, Come". The second you say "Come"; give a light pop with the leash.
- Step 8: Start to add a sit in front of you when your puppy returns to you with the retrieved item.
- Step 9: Progress to tossing the toy further and further away from your puppy.

After three sessions of retrieves at 10 feet or more, begin to randomly alternate food treats and verbal praise. When your puppy is consistently, happily retrieving, begin to phase out food and give a food reward for only the fastest and best retrieves.

### REMEMBER

Always praise before you give treats and give them close to your body (center front).