

Obedience Club of Daytona, Inc.
Basic Manners Class – Week 3 Homework and Notes

POSITION CHANGES ON THE MAT:

Goal: Sit, Stand, and Down – dog is willingly following the lure and doing the position.

- Continue to lure these behaviors by using the food in front of the dog's nose but not with the food touching the nose. Use your hands on the dog to assist the dog in doing the behavior.
- Your dog should be readily following the lure. **Praise.** Be sure to praise!
- As soon as your dog is moving readily to perform the behavior, add the command.
- Mix up the order in which you have the dog change from position to another. Praise each one.

LOOSE LEASH WALKING Week 3:

You are going to do TWO different kinds of exercises at home this week.

ONE is practicing with the food lure:

- The food lure is still visible; depending on the dog and the environmental distractions will depend on where you hold the food. ALWAYS keep the food close to your body, which is where you want the dog, close to you. If you are feeding away from your body, you are inadvertently communicating something you don't want.
- Always keep the leash loose. **ADD a command "Let's Go!"**
- Move forward with a purpose to make moving with you fun. Put a little bounce in your step, careful not to stride out too long, better to make short quick steps. This kind of movement will increase the dogs' interest in moving with you.

TWO is without the food visible using **Counter Moves:**

- **You are going to take your dog for a walk. No commands necessary for this exercise.** You may not get far, or you may feel like your going in a different direction constantly. Keep at it. ☺
- You may have food in your pockets but nothing in your hand.
- Again, the leash must be loose.
- You may try a different hand position. Hold the handle of the leash in your right hand, at your right side or up at your waist. Put your left hand on the leash along your left side. **Keep your arms close to your body throughout this exercise.** Provide slack/looseness in that leash on the left side. **As soon as the dog leaves you, gets more than a foot away from you, or gets distracted from you, turn and move in the opposite direction. Do not warn the dog that you are turning.** The element of surprise is key here. You don't want the dog to see that you are going away from it. When the two of you are going in opposite directions, the leash will tighten on its own and the dog will have to move towards you. AS soon as the dog joins you, is alongside you, praise and if the dog looks at you, praise more excitedly.

IT'S YER CHOICE: See the separate handout

“LEAVE IT” and “COME”:

Goal: To get the dog to leave a distraction and focus on the handler.

You can set this up like what you see us do at class but don't use the dog's personal toys.

Use miscellaneous items at home, a shoe, a sock, etc.

1. The dog is on leash.
2. Have a cookie in your right hand.
3. The leash may be held in one or both hands.
4. Attempt to walk the dog near the object of interest (OOI). When the dog shows interest in the OOI say “Leave it, Come” and lure the dog back to you and away from the distraction.
5. Back up carefully, no falling! You only need to back up a few steps. Bring the dog towards you, say “Yes” and reward the dog with the cookie when he is focused on you and the cookie.

Dog Training TONES of your Voice

Unfortunately, dogs don't speak English, or French or German or ... well you get our drift here. So, to them, words are just sounds. Choose your sounds carefully.

A happy, high pitched voice can get a dog excited and a low pitched or sharp sounding voice might make your dog cower or tuck his tail.

As your dog's trainer, you have to figure out what tones of your voice are most effective for whatever it is you are trying to communicate to your dog.

Generally speaking, a happy upbeat tone is best when you want the dog to move towards you with excitement and energy, like when you say “Come.” If you were to say “Come” in a low tone, it might sound threatening and make your dog stressed, nervous, or unresponsive.

Most commands should be said in a calm, authoritative (yet non-harsh) tone. As an example, when you give your dog a cue that requires him to show self-restraint, like “sit” or “stay,” if you were to say that the same way you say “Come” or “Let's go” your dog is likely not going to be able to sit still.

Volume is also important and unless your dog is very far away, don't yell at your dog. This does not make your dog obey you better.

Lastly, consistency of tone is critical, especially when your dog is still in the early stages of learning. **Once you have the dog doing the behavior and you are adding commands**, some dogs will need to hear the command 50-100 times before they can proficiently respond with the proper behavior. In effect, it's important to remember that the same word said in two different tones can sound like two completely different words.

Remember to use all your lesson plans to plan your training times.

Happy Training!