

ADVANCED: WEEK 4

Command: LAP (no cues)

Reasons:

- To teach the puppy to place his fore legs on a person's lap
- Used to Dress, groom, give retrieved items and for petting

How to teach:

- Sit in a chair and place the pup in front or to the side of you
- Tell the pup "LAP"
- Tell the puppy "Good LAP", give verbal reward
- Give the off command

Tips:

- Build for time as the puppy begins to understand the command
- Rewards should be given WHILE the pup is in position (not after the Release command)

Homework:

Practice the LAP command as described above 6 times per day; increase the Stay to 1 minute

Command: Side

Reasons:

- To teach the puppy to Sit in the correct position by the handler's right side
- Graduates use this command when they need the dog on their right side (e.g., opening non-automatic doors which swing open to the right), to move the dog from any position to their right side and in crowded conditions where the dog must be directly next to the chair

How to teach:

- Begin by giving the Sit-Stay command
- Move so that you are directly in front of the puppy with his nose almost touching the front of your legs
- Give the Side command
- When the pup moves parallel to your knees (facing the same direction as you), he should Sit
- Praise the puppy and tell him "Good Side"
- Tell the puppy "release" when you finish the Side command or give the Stay command and repeat the above sequence
- You may also begin teaching this command with the pup diagonal to you, or in a different position (e.g., Sit, Down, Stand, etc.)

Tips

- Keep sessions short
- The pup should turn a tight circle SLIGHTLY behind the handler in order to move into the proper Side position
- If the puppy Sits out of position, simply tell him "Side: while taking one step forward with the pup: praise the puppy once he sits in the proper position
- If the puppy Sits too far behind, encourage him up to you with a lure or by clapping your hands while giving the Side command or walk forward as described in the previous tip

*Homework

Practice the Side command as described above at least 6 times per day; begin teaching the Side command from different positions as described above

Command: Jump (on command)

Reason

- To teach the puppy to jump onto objects on command
- Objects can be high (within the puppy's physical capabilities) or low
- Used for grooming, physical examinations or to place the dog on a specific object

How to teach:

- Place the dog in front of a stable table (e.g. grooming table)
- Give the Jump command
- Praise the puppy when he Jumps
- Practice Stand, Down and Sit-Stays with the pup on the table

Tips

- Do not let the puppy decide when he will get off of the object; he must wait for a command
- Remember not to repeat commands

Homework

- Practice the Jump On command 3-5 times per day on different objects of varying heights
- Practice the Jump On command on outings; try to find objects of different heights and textures
- Vary the waiting time that the puppy stays on the table so that he does not learn to predict when the Off command will be given

Command: Back

Reason

- To teach the pup to move backwards in a straight line, on command
- Used by graduates in chains of commands (Out), in retrieving remote objects, and in navigating narrow paths of travel such as tight aisles and doorways
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How to teach:

- Set up a long narrow walkway (e.g., place two conference tables on their side approximately one foot apart)
- Walk between the two tables with the dog behind you
- Give the Wait command when you reach the end of the walkway
- Step out of the walkway and turn around to face the dog
- Tell the dog "Back" and walk towards him
- If the dog does not move, crowd him backwards
- The dog should move backwards slowly (not darting to the end of walkway)
- Give the Release or Let's Go command when you are finished
- As the pup gains proficiency, he should be able to take 4-5 steps back without cues or repeated commands

Homework

- Practice the Back command 3-5 times per day
- Practice between different objects with the goal being a pup who can back up in any environment.

Command: UP (verbal command only)

Reason

- To teach a pup to place her front paws on any object.
- Used by graduates for transactions, as a delivery option for retrieved objects, and in chaining other commands (i.e. LIGHT, SWITCH), and to position dog for grooming and dressing

How to Teach

- approach an object such as a table or counter
- give the Up command (pat the table surface if needed)
- praise and pet the puppy
- if the puppy gets down on his own, tell him “Don’t” and give a sharp leash correction upwards so that he moves into the Up position
- after 30 seconds give the Off command
- calmly praise the puppy

Tips

- Do not allow the puppy to sniff; use the Leave command if needed
- Make sure you are teaching the pup to listen to the handler and not teaching her to rely on environmental cues for commands. Try approaching familiar objects and giving another command such as Let’s Go, UNDER or Down
- Remember not to step back when telling the puppy Off as he will focus on your body cues and not on the actual command
- By this time the pups should be able to differentiate between the UP and JUMP and UNDER commands.