

ADVANCED: WEEK 6
LESSONS

Command: Up (no cues, 30 second Stay, Heel)

Reason

- To teach the puppy to place his front paws on an object
- Used for transactions and retrieves

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; correct if needed
- The puppy should go Up and Off on command only; you can prevent the puppy from taking the initiative by 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

Homework:

Practice the Up command as described above 6 times per day; vary the objects to include different heights and surfaces

Command: VISIT (on command; from different positions)

Reason

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

How to teach:

- Sit in a chair
- Give the VISIT command
- If the puppy does not place his chin on your lap, tell him “Don’t” and give a firm correction towards your lap
- Tell the puppy “Good VISIT and briefly rub his nose or chin.
- Have the pup Stay for 1 minute and then give the Off command

How to teach VISIT from different positions

- Sit in a chair
- Give a command such as Stand, Down, Side, Up, etc
- Praise the pup and then give the VISIT command
- Praise and/or correct the puppy appropriately
- Have the pup Stay for 1 minute and then give the Off command

Tips

- You should expect the pup to do the VISIT command without cues or help from you; if a corrections does not work, place the puppy by grasping the underside of the halti or flat collar and placing his chin on your lap; calmly pet his nose; practice outside of class until the puppy can perform a VISIT on command

Homework

Practice the VISIT command as described above 6 times per day

Practice the Lap command from different positions 3 times per day

Command: Side (from a stationary chair)

Reason

- 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 nonautomatic 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 sitting in a stationary chair and placing the pup in front of you
- Give the Side command
- The puppy should move into position; if he does not, correct him in the direction that he should be moving
- Praise the puppy and tell him "Good Side"
- Tell the puppy "Release" when you finish the Side command
- Once the puppy understands the above exercise, you may begin teaching this command with the pup diagonal to you, or in a different position (e.g. Sit, Down, Stand, etc.)

Tips

- The pup should turn a tight circle slightly behind the handler in order to move into the proper Side position
- It is natural for the puppy to be confused when you give the Side command while you are sitting, use encouragement and a leash lure if the pup does not respond to a verbal command or correction

Homework

Practice the Side command as described above at least 6 times per day

Command: Back

Reason

- To teach the puppy to back up in a straight line in front of the handler
- Used by graduates to maneuver through tight aisles and doorways

How to teach:

- Set up a long narrow walkway (e.g., place two conference tables on their side approximately three feet apart)
- Walk through the walkway 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 back
- The dog should move backwards slowly (not darting to the end of the walkway)
- Give the Release or Let's Go command when you are finished

Tips

- If the pup tries to turn around while doing a Back, correct him and try again; if the pup still turns around, move the tables closer together until the pup is consistently successful
- For a puppy who is highly stressed (e.g., darts to the end of the table or constantly turns around), hold a lure against your legs at his nose level; this will help to focus the pup on the lure and enable him to do the exercise more calmly

Homework

Practice the Back command 3-5 times per day