

KPT: Week 6

LECTURE

CANINE BODY LANGUAGE

A good handler learns to read the body language of the canine that she is working. By looking at the position of the tail, the body posture, the eyes, and other details, the handler can determine how the dog is feeling and adjust his training methods accordingly. Look over the diagrams following this lecture that illustrate such emotions as fear, stress, and happiness.

Play Bow

Dogs exhibit this posture as an invitation to play. They will use this posture with other dogs, people, cats, or whomever else they are interested in.

Stress

At certain times, the puppy will become stressed just as humans do. Puppies will experience stress when learning new commands, discovering new places or meeting new people or animals. Moderate amounts of stress are natural and motivate the puppy to accomplish new commands or approach new situations. As a handler, you should watch the puppy for signs of stress and break off a training session when the puppy becomes too stressed. Breaking off and relieving stress means simply taking a break and doing a fun activity or a simple command at which the puppy is successful. Resume the training exercise when the puppy has relaxed or later in the day.

Defensive Aggression

A dog that exhibits these signs is often fearful of the situation. This dog will retreat unless it feels that it does not have an escape route. Given the choice of Flight or Fight, he will choose Flight--if allowed. However, the dog does have the potential of defending himself should he feel that he couldn't escape.

Offensive Aggression

A dog that exhibits these signs may be dominant or protective. If a puppy exhibits this posture, contact your trainer and puppy coordinator immediately. If you meet a dog exhibiting these signs with the puppy, immediately place the puppy in a Sit. This is a submissive position and will often satisfy a dominant dog. While the natural instinct may be to run, this will excite the dog and invite trouble. If you have trouble with a dog in your neighborhood, contact your trainer and puppy coordinator.

Alert

This is a posture that you may see when you produce the puppy's favorite toy or treat or when the puppy is focused on something in the environment such as birds or a passing tennis ball. If you are

working the puppy at the time, you will have to get the puppy's attention focused back on you. When his ears lay back on his head, you have gotten his attention. We call these "thinking ears".

Happy

This posture is the one that you will see when you arrive home from work, play games or give a belly rub. If the puppy appears to become too stressed when training, break him off and bring him back to this posture.

Sadness

Dogs appear to feel sad just as humans do. However, dogs live in the present and do not carry over feelings from the past. For example, a dog may feel sad when he is left at home at that time. He will not continue to feel sad two days later. This same principle applies to the concept of guilt. Dogs relate only to the immediate consequence of their actions. For example, if a puppy makes his lunch out of your favorite shoe, he will look guilty when a scolding follows the discovery of the chewed shoe. It is important to remember that the dog is reacting to the scolding and not to feelings of guilt over destroying your favorite shoe.

Summary

Body language can provide us with cues on how to train each individual dog as well as read dogs that we encounter in public. Paying close attention to the puppy that you are working as well as other dogs, will help to make each training session and outing successful and enjoyable.

KPT: WEEK 6 POSSIBLE GAMES

ACTIVITES

Rapid Recall

This is a relay game that consists of two teams of equal size and one puppy "holder" for each team. Team members will need their own flexi lead or long line. Begin by designating a wide horizontal starting line and a wide horizontal finish line directly across the room from each other. The puppy raisers should form two teams of equal size. The instructor should also designate one puppy "holder" for each team who is not presently working a dog (friend or family member of a puppy raiser). Instruct the team members to line up along the starting line next to each other with approximately 1-2 feet in between. Team A and Team B should both be lined up along the same horizontal starting line with some space between the two teams.

The game begins with each "holder" holding onto puppy #1 from each team. When the instructor says, "Start", the first puppy raiser runs straight across the room to the designated finish line. She then calls her puppy to her using the Here command. The holder, of course, lets go of the puppy at

this time. As soon as puppy #1 leaves, the holder restrains puppy #2. Once puppy #1 has reached his handler, puppy raiser #2 runs to the finish line and calls his puppy. The first team to get all of the members to the other side wins!

KPT Week 6 Lessons

A) Here Command On a Twelve Foot Leash

Reason

- To teach the puppy that he must always come when called
- To teach the puppy that the Here command is fun!

How to teach

- Place the puppy on a twelve-foot leash and tell him “Release”
- When he is distracted, bend down and say “Here”
- Encourage him towards you by clapping your hands and using a high-pitched voice to praise him
- Praise and pet him when he comes to you
- Give the Release command
- If the puppy does not come on command, give a sharp correction and encourage him to come to you OR run in the opposite direction giving a sharp leash correction as you run and encourage him to follow you

Tips

- If the puppy becomes distracted while coming to you, get his attention and run backwards
- (Puppies love to chase things!)
- Only call a puppy to you for fun things such as meals walks, play time or petting; if a bath, a trip to the veterinarian is planned; go get the puppy without calling him
- Never, ever call the puppy to you unless he is on leash (until otherwise instructed); this is the fastest way to teach the puppy that he does not HAVE to come when called

Homework

Practice the Here command on a twelve foot leash in the yard 35 times per day

B) Leash Work With U-Turns and Mild Distractions (flat collar)

Reason

- To teach the puppy to maintain a loose leash
- To teach the puppy to pay attention to the handler by using encouragement, corrections and frequent u-turns

How to teach

- Begin a Let’s Go exercise; as you are walking have someone hold out a treat or bounce a ball to distract the puppy
- You will have to work hard to maintain the puppy’s attention, clap your hands, whistle, shuffle you feet, use a high-pitched voice, etc.
- Praise the puppy for following you
- As you are walking, make a u-turn and walk in the exact opposite direction while encouraging the puppy to follow you

- If the puppy does not follow you or pulls the leash tight, give the puppy a sharp correction and then encourage him to catch up with you
- Tell the puppy “Release” when you finish walking

Tips

- Keep sessions short
- Correct the puppy only when he pulls the leash tight or does not follow you by giving a sharp leash correction; do not pull the puppy towards you
- Before you begin the exercise, decide exactly where you will walk to, where you will make the u-turn and where you will finish; do not deviate from your path or wait for the puppy
- Remember, when you practice u-turns, the puppy must pay attention to find out just where you are headed next!

Homework

Practice the Let's Go command with u-turns at least 3 times per day (halti and flat collar)
As the puppy improves, you may add more distractions to the exercise

C) Down (verbal)

Reason

- To teach the puppy self control
- To establish control over the puppy in distracting Situations with ONE verbal command

How to teach

- Give the SIT command
- Give the Down command
- Praise and pet the puppy and then give him a treat
- Give the Release command
- If the puppy will not do a verbal down, give a sharp correction downwards with the leash (from the throat straight to the floor)
- Praise the puppy once he has completed the Down and then give the Release command

Tips

- Dominant dogs are sometimes reluctant to lie down in the presence of other dogs as it is a submissive position; if the puppy will not do a Down in the call room, step to the corner of the room or outside and try the exercise; once you are successful, you can begin practicing the exercise as you progressively move closer to the class
- As the puppy becomes more successful with the Down command, give treats at larger intervals (e.g.: every 2nds, 4th or 6th time)

Homework

Practice the Down with one verbal command 5 times per day

D) Down Stay (60 seconds: Front of Puppy and Mild Distractions)

Reason

- To teach the puppy self control
- To establish control over the puppy in distracting Situations

How to teach Front of Puppy

- Give the SIT command
- Give the Down command with one verbal command
- Calmly praise the puppy and tell him Stay
- Calmly step directly in front of the puppy
- Count 60 seconds and return to the puppy's side
- Praise and pet the puppy
- Give the Release command

How to teach for Mild Distractions

- Repeat the above procedure except remain by the side of the puppy
- Have a friend bounce a ball, walk a dog or hold out a treat near the puppy

Tips

- If the puppy breaks his stay, firmly tell him "Don't. Down" and give him a firm quick leash correction towards the floor (do not repeat the command)
- If the puppy repeatedly breaks his Stay, try a 30 second Down Stay while by the puppy's side

Homework

Practice the Down Stay command 5 times per day
Increase the time to 3 minutes by the next class

E) Drop (trade)

Reason

- To teach the puppy to drop items that are in his mouth
- To keep the puppy from eating dangerous or inappropriate objects or substances
- To enable the puppy and handler to play games such as fetch

How to teach

- Put tempting treats and toys in your pocket
- Entice the puppy to play with a tennis ball or other toy
- Offer a treat to the puppy and say “Drop” as he drops the ball to take the treat; follow with praise and petting
- Repeat the above sequence three more times

Tips

- Keep sessions short so that the puppy does not become bored with the treats and decide to
- Keep the ball
- Give extensive praise and attention for each Drop
- Only give the Drop command when the puppy is on leash so that you can avoid such favorite games as keep away

Homework

Practice the Drop command 2 sessions per day

Shake

Reason: To teach the pup to offer you or another person his paw. This is used by some graduates to untangle a leash and can be a good way to allow interaction with the public, without letting things get out of control.

How to Teach:

Lure your pup into a sit, but do not use the sit command (since you do not want to have to correct if he breaks).

Start by tickling the back of your pup’s paw to see if he picks up his foot. If he does, praise.

You may also pick the paw up and praise.

You may also try using the collar to tip the pup off balance and then praise when the paw comes up off the floor.

The ideal shake is the pup shaking on command only, and bringing his paw to his shoulder height.

Remember NOT: to allow uncommanded shakes (pawing). Teach the shake in three steps.

Step 1 – Shake with body cue (person’s hand presented and command)

Step 2 – Shake with verbal command only – grab the paw AFTER it is presented

Step 3 – Targeted shake – move hand and pup should reach to hit your hand with his paw