

BASIC: Week 5 lesson

A: Let's Go (pup on handler's right side)

B: SIDE- introduce

C: DOWN- (increase distractions)

D: SIT- (increase distractions)

E: STAND- correction

F: CAR- reinforce

G: OFF- reinforce

Lecture–Leadership

Lesson A: Let's Go (pup on handler's right)

Reason

Many graduates work their dogs from the right instead of the left. CCI dogs all need to be versatile enough to work equally well from either side.

Lesson B: Side

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 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

Explanation

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 as you do the following:

Move your right leg backwards (approximately 1-2 feet) while keeping your left foot in place

At the same time, encourage the pup to follow your leg by clapping your hand against your right leg and moving his leash in the same direction

If you are using a lure, place the lure in the hand that is holding the leash and move your hand in the direction that you want the pup to follow

When the pup moves parallel to your knees (facing the same direction as you), tell him "Side-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

Tips

Keep sessions short

When the pup is moving into the Side position from a position facing the handler, the pup should walk towards the handler and turn a tight circle slightly behind the handler in order to move into the proper Side position

If using a lure, you should place it in the hand that is holding the leash (generally the right hand) so that the pup learns to follow the leash when you no longer use a lure

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

As the puppy begins to grasp the command, you may change the command to "Side"

Homework

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

Lesson C: Down – increased distractions

Lesson D: Sit – increased distractions

Lesson E: Stand-Stay (moving around pup; 30 seconds)

Reason

To teach the puppy to hold a firm stand while being groomed or at the veterinarian's office

To prevent the puppy from sitting or lying down on undesirable surfaces (e.g.: mud, sticky floors, etc.)

Explanation

Give the Stand command

Give a Stay command and move slowly around the puppy in a circle

Count 30 seconds and return to the side of the puppy

Tell the puppy "Good Stand-Stay"

After a few seconds, tell him "Release"

Tips

The pup should move from a Sit to a Stand without walking forward; he may move his legs slightly to adjust his weight

If the puppy cannot Stand-Stay while you move around him, try walking slightly to the left and then to the right side for a few sessions; once the puppy is repeatedly successful, you may try walking around him again

Homework

Practice the Stand-Stay 3-5 times per day

Vary the waiting time that the puppy Stays (30-60 seconds) so that he does not learn to predict when the Release command will be issued

Lesson F: Car (see lesson #2)

Lesson G: Off

Reason:

Used to tell pup to get off of something: car, scale, grooming table, ect.

Explanation:

Give off command and help pup off object

You can use a food lure but it is not necessary for most dogs

To start this command you may need to say off and then lets go to get your pup moving

You should be able to say off from any position and the pup should get off of an object without the handler moving at all

The pup should never hit the end of the leash and full attention should be on the handler waiting for further direction

Homework:

Practice the off 3-5 times per day

LEADERSHIP IN ADOLESCENCE

In KPT, we discussed pack dynamics and the importance of establishing yourself as a leader over the puppy. Today we are going to discuss puppy adolescence and some new ways to establish leadership over an older pup.

Adolescence generally begins between the ages of eight to ten months, depending on the dog's level of maturity. At this time, the dog will instinctively begin to challenge your leadership. This is not done out of spite, but rather it is a natural process which ensures that the strongest dog (or person) is leading the pack. A sign that the puppy has become an adolescent is a sudden lack of ability to hear your commands or remember what the commands mean. In preparation for adolescence and the challenges that it brings, we are going to begin adding some exercises and principles to your leadership regimen.

Begin by having the puppy perform long Down-Stays at a minimum of 30 minutes each. Down is a submissive position, which will help establish your leadership. A good time to practice this is when you watch television, read a book, or eat a meal. Give the Down-Stay command and calmly praise the puppy for going into position. If he breaks the Down before he is released, tell him "Don't" and give a leash correction straight downward. Praise him when he lies down again. If the dog constantly breaks the Stay, give the Down command and place your foot on the leash so that he cannot get up. You may praise the dog occasionally, but do not pet or play with him. Remember, this is an exercise and not an opportunity for an extra belly rub!

Your attitude towards the pup must now adjust to the fact that he is a teenager. While the puppy is still learning about the environment and appropriate behavior, he must now take responsibility for doing the things that he does know. For example, the pup should be performing all commands learned in Kindergarten Puppy Training on one command. The handler should reward a successful command with calm praise. Save the lures and treats for when the dog is learning new skills. If the puppy does not follow a command that he knows, tell him "Don't" and give him a firm leash correction and praise him when he successfully completes a command. This is the process of instilling a WORKING DOG ATTITUDE in the dog.

As the pup enters adolescence, it will become crucial that you follow the basic leadership principles. Be consistent, enforce what you ask of the dog, remain objective, set clear limits and make the dog earn all treats, meals, games, and attention. At a time when a puppy naturally challenges your leadership, you must prove again and again that you are top dog. Review the list of leadership do's in KPT section one.

Puppies in adolescence will often try different behaviors as a way of testing their place in the pack or as a method of correcting the handler. A few common behaviors are mouthing, nipping, barking, and growling. Methods of eliminating or curbing the behaviors are listed below:

Mouthing and Nipping

Mouthing should be corrected by folding the pup's upper lip underneath his canine teeth and pinching hard. Remember, you want the pup to understand that it cannot mouth humans under any circumstances. Disabled people often have lost feeling over at least part of their body and cannot easily detect when they have been injured. Puppies who are dominant may rebel by biting the handler harder. If this occurs, stop

using hands-on physical corrections and begin using a sharp leash correction and a firm "Don't". It is often helpful to have the puppy on a leash when he is with you so that you can easily give a correction (do not keep a puppy leashed when he is not being directly supervised).

Barking

Barking is often a way to protest or to assert the puppy's own will. This is a behavior that can easily get out of control and must be stopped immediately. In general, you should use a squirt bottle filled with 50% vinegar and 50% water and spray it directly into the dog's mouth while firmly saying, "Quiet". Binaca or lemon juice can also be very effective.

Barking can also be a way to express fear or protectiveness. Letting the puppy know that you are a consistent, confident, and firm handler can diminish both of these behaviors. The more the pup believes in your ability to lead the pack, the less he will feel the need to offer his own protection. However, some puppies have a natural tendency to startle bark when hearing strange noises or encountering new people. A puppy that is barking out of fear should NEVER be corrected. Instead, your trainer will work with you on ways to create a positive association with the fear object(s) and give you exercises to increase the puppy's confidence. Regardless of whether the puppy is barking from fear or from protectiveness, you will need to work closely with your puppy coordinator and trainer in addressing the problem.

Growling

Growling can be a form of assertiveness or a sign of fear. Either way, the message is clear: Leave Me Alone! If a puppy has one or more growling incidents, begin keeping a log of where, when, and why the puppy growled. Contact your trainer AND puppy coordinator immediately for help in resolving this problem. Please note that this is different than a play growl as when a pup has a toy in his mouth and is growling and shaking it. Many dogs make vocal sounds when they play. If you are unsure, speak to your trainer.

Marking

Intact males will usually begin marking their territory by lifting their leg on everything in sight. You can discourage this behavior by taking the initiative to decide where and when the dog may toilet. If the dog lifts his leg at other times, tell him "Don't" and force him into a Sit by giving a sharp leash correction upwards and forcing his hind end to the ground. With persistence, the dog will come to understand that he should take advantage of offered toileting opportunities and not "save a little for that special bush up the street".

Adolescence can be both a frustrating and rewarding time. On the one hand, the puppy has developed a unique and often entertaining personality. On the other hand, he now wants to express that personality all of the time! By consistently enforcing the rules and working closely with your trainer and puppy coordinator, that rowdy teenager will blossom into a mature adult dog.