

PUPPY PRE-SCHOOL HOMEWORK 3



1. CONFIDENCE

Take your dog to new places every week. Invite people over. Play 'find it' games in- and outdoors.

2. BODY HANDLING

Continue to make body handling rewarding by giving treats and/or play after handling. If your dog is completely comfortable with handling, you can also practise rewarding voluntary cooperation, i.e. the dog has to hold still for 1 second (then 3 seconds) when you grab an elbow, paw, ear, tail or touch the mouth or body. You can also teach your dog to voluntarily offer a paw for examination. In both cases the dog has to do something first (holding still or giving a paw) to get the reward.

3. TRAINING

Follow the training rules from week 1 and repeat each level until the dog has a success rate of at least 80%.

- SIT & DROP / DOWN:

Level 4:

Same as level 3 but reduce your hand movement even more. The goal is that your puppy sits when you hold out your hand with palm facing up and that your puppy lies down when you hold out your hand with palm facing down.

Level 5:

Prompt your puppy to sit or lie down with a small hand movement. Only after the puppy has moved into the position, reach for a treat (in your treat pouch or container) and reward them. If your puppy gets up while you reach for the treat, prompt them back into the sit or drop before giving the treat.

Level 6:

Introduce a verbal cue ("sit", "drop" or "down") 2 seconds before you give the hand signal. Eventually your dog will not wait for the hand signal and sit or lie down on the verbal cue alone. You can now use both – verbal and hand signal – independently for the same behaviour.

- WALKING ON LEASH

Level 3:

Walk in more challenging environments with more distractions. Use real life rewards, such as allowing your dog to sniff at a tree, to reinforce loose leash walking. Never let your dog pull you towards anything, otherwise you reinforce pulling. Always stop or change direction and encourage your dog to come back or follow you with happy talk and clapping and hand targeting. Never pull your dog back using the leash.

- LEAVE IT:

Level 1:

Put a tasty treat into your closed hand – your puppy will lick and nibble at your hand. Wait until your puppy pauses for a split second and then let them have the treat.

Level 2:

Put a tasty treat into your open hand. If your puppy tries to grab it, quickly close your hand (don't let the puppy win!). Wait until your puppy pauses for a split second, and then let them have the treat.

Level 3:

Same as level 2 (put food in your open hand) but wait until your puppy pauses for 3 seconds before giving the treat.

Level 4:

Repeat level 3 but say "leave it" before presenting the open hand with the treat.

Level 5:

Put a tasty treat on the floor about a metre from your dog. Be ready to step on it or cover it with your hand! Say "leave it". If the dog pauses for 1 second, let them have it or reward with food from your other hand. If the dog moves towards the food, quickly cover it.

Level 6:

Same as level 5 but the puppy has to pause for 3 seconds.

Level 7+:

Pretend to accidentally drop food. Be ready to step on it or cover it with your hand! Say "leave it" when the dog notices the food. If the dog pauses, let them have it or reward with food from your other hand.

Practise dropping or placing food in different locations including outdoors. Reward your dog with food that you carry or something else that is more rewarding than what is on the ground.

- DROP & SIT STAY:

Once your dog can stay for a few seconds under various distractions, add distance by walking away from the dog. Walk backwards so you can immediately return to your starting position, if the dog breaks the stay. Walk away 3 steps and return without delay to deliver the treat if your dog stays. Then try 6 steps, then walk to the other end of the room, then very briefly walk out of sight.

Then gradually add duration. For example ask your dog to stay on their mat while you prepare dinner and reward at random time intervals.

Always make sure your dog can win a lot and frequently earn rewards. If they break the stay 3 out of 5 times, go back to an easier step (fewer distractions, less distance or shorter duration) and repeat until they improve.