

Things to Work on with Your Dog At Home

Sit and Down Stays

It is important to vary the times that you keep your dog in stays. 10 seconds to one minute. Do not let your dog break. Reward the stay with a treat frequently, gradually going farther away.

Leave It

This command can eventually lead to leaving all things around the house. Have treats in both hands. Show the dog the treat in one hand and lightly close your hand. When the dog leaves your hand alone, reward with a treat from the other hand and praise.

Place food on the floor. Be ready to put your foot over the treat if the dog goes for it. When the dog leaves the treat alone, reward with a treat from your hand and praise. Gradually increase the time the dog leaves "it" alone.

Build up to other objects, such as toys or anything you want your dog to leave alone.

Loose Leash Heeling

Walk on a loose leash. If the dog pulls, simply go the other way or stop forward motion. When the dog stops pulling, the forward motion continues.

Paces

Practice different paces—slow, fast, and normal.

Watch Me

Practice "watch me." This exercise will help your dog focus on you. For example, if another dog approaches, you can keep your dog's attention on you instead of the other dog.

Sit your dog at your side. Show your dog a treat. Slowly bring the treat up to your mouth or nose. Dog should make eye contact. Say "watch" Treat the dog and praise "good watch."

Gradually increase the time the dog maintains eye contact. Start with three seconds and increase slowly.

Random Sits and Downs

Practice random sits and down when heeling your dog.

Sit at Halt

When you stop walking, the dog should sit. Help the dog to sit until he learns this exercise.

Recals

Any “come” command should be happy. Do not ever call your dog to you and correct your dog. If you need to correct, you must go to the dog. Remember “come” is a happy place.

Back Up and Call your dog

This exercise teaches the front position.

Practice these exercises at class, at home, and then in other places. Always set your dog up to be successful. Gradually add distractions, which help proof your dog to obey in a variety of environments.