



Beginner Obedience Homework - Week One

Practice in short 5-15 minute sessions throughout the day - a minimum of 15 minutes each and every day.

New skills to practice:

Touch - Practice having your dog target your fingertips/hand with their nose. Present your hand 6-12 inches from your dog's face.

Look - Lure your dog's attention to your face.

Sit - Lure up and back at angle

Down - Lure straight down between your dog's front feet and then either slowly towards or away from your dog (each dog is different). Lure from both a sit and a stand.

Name game - Say your dog's name excitedly and back up. Click as soon as they turn towards you. Keep up the motivation as they follow through and reward when they get to you. The backing up action is important. Don't say come yet - just your dog's name.

Challenge: Say "okay" or the release word of your choosing before your dog crosses through a doorway or eats their meals. It is not necessary to make them wait yet, just get them used to hearing the "okay" before they cross the threshold or start to eat.



Beginner Obedience Homework - Week Two

New skills to practice:

Look - Draw your dog's gaze to your face without the use of a treat - just your hand/finger.

Stand - Lure your dog forward just enough that their bum comes up off the ground. Try not to do a long drawn out motion. We want the bum to come up their front feet to stay stationary.

Sit from Down position - Lure up at an angle over your dog's head to help them go from laying down to sitting.

Leave it - Present your dog with treats enclosed in two hands about a foot and a half apart. Once they have begun to sniff one of them, say "leave it" *once*. The moment they turn their head away or back away from it, say "yes" and reveal and give the treat from the opposite hand. Remember never to reward with the treat you said "leave it" for.

Loose leash walking – Reward your dog for being in the "treat zone" next to your leg. Progress can only be made with no tension on leash. If there is tension – stop, and wait for your dog to release the tension by moving back towards the treat zone.

Recall - Repeat the name game from last week with a longer lead - begin to say come as your dog is coming towards you. E.g "Bailey, Come!" Click as they are halfway to you.

Reminder: Next week, bring a blanket, mat, towel, or bed for your dog to lay on.



Beginner Obedience Homework - Week Three

Practice cues in at least 3 different low distraction environments this week to help them generalize their learning.

New skills to practice:

Puppy push-ups - alternate between sit, down, and stand, mixing up the order so your dog has to listen not anticipate. Use “air cookies” or hand signals whenever possible - try to avoid continuing to lure with a treat.

Touch - increase distance.

Sit stay & release - practice sit stay with duration only (not distance), release with “okay” or the release word of your choice. Every single stay, no matter how long or short, must end with this release word.

Go to bed - practice sending your dog to a mat/bed/towel/blanket from a short distance.

Side – Starting with your dog facing you, lure them in an arc to bring them to your side. Take a small step back as you lure them to help align them properly.

Doorway control - start asking your dog to sit at every doorway and release them through the door with their release word.

Recall - Practice recalls in a new environment. Always ON LEASH. Try a 15’ or 20’ long lead.

Reminder: Bring mat again next week



Beginner Obedience Homework - Week Four

New skills to practice:

Look: hold a treat out as distraction when you ask your dog to look at you. Click when they look at you instead of at the treat.

Go to bed - try to increase the distance you send your dog to their mat/bed/blanket from.

Duration stay - work on adding a slight bit of distance to your sit stays. Just a step or two away and then right back to your dog to reward and release.

Down stay - work on staying in the down position.

Gotcha - practice handling your dog's ears, paws, tails, etc every day and working on "gotcha" exercise with their collar/harness.

Leave it - work on leave it with one hand in front of your dog and one hand hidden behind your back. When ready, also work on slowly opening your hand after you've said leave it and your dog has backed off. Make sure to close your hand if your dog goes for the treat. Don't let them reward themselves for ignoring the leave it cue.

Reminder: Bring toys next week for working on give/drop it - choose easy to grip toys that your dog likes. Also bring a dog food bowl.



Beginner Obedience Homework - Week Five

New skills to practice:

Puppy push ups - Work on shortening your hand gestures for sit and down into just hand signals.

Look - Add short duration to look cue.

Twofers - Ask for two cues in a row before clicking and rewarding. i.e. touch & sit or two touches.

Give/drop it - Give your dog a toy or ball of low value to start with and offer a food treat to get your dog to remove their mouth from the toy. Click as soon as your dog drops the object and reward them. When your dog reliably drops the toy for the treat, begin to use the verbal cue "give" or "drop" as you present the treat.

Food bowl wait - Have your dog sit and wait while you lower their food bowl. Say "okay" to release them to eat. Remember this is not a leave it.

Automatic sits - Practice walking your dog along a wall, stopping every few feet and asking them to sit as you stop.

Doorway control - Add "look" to their doorway waits. They must sit, wait, and look at you before being released.



Beginner Obedience Homework - Week Six

New skills to practice:

Go to bed - increase the distance you are sending your dog to the bed from.

Leave it - work on lowering your hand towards the ground.

Spin/twirl – lure forward and then around in a circle, level to the ground, in one direction for spin. Twirl is a separate cue in the other direction.

Recall - call your dog away from a distracting object **ON LEASH**. Have your dog sit when they get to you. As you deliver the treat, grasp their collar or harness with your other hand.

Reminder: Next week is Graduation! Bring a mat and a bowl.

Full list of behaviors:

-look	-sit stay	-recall
-touch	-down stay	-spin
-sit	-leave it	-food bowl wait
-down	-side	-doorway wait
-stand	-loose leash	-give/drop it
-go to bed	walking	