



PUPPY MANNERS

WEEK 5

ETHEL MERCER

HOMework

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1. Read Puppy **WEEK 5** handouts at: <http://www.lomitadogtraining.org/resources/>
2. Remember to use your **MARKER** word (from Week 1)
Whenever your puppy does what you want, say "YES". The immediately give treat or praise.
3. Practice **GREETING** (from Week 1)
All four feet on the floor or sitting.
3. Practice **HAND TOUCH** (from Week 1)
Have your puppy touch your hand with her nose.
4. Practice **PUPPY PUSH-UPS** (from Week 2)
5. Practice **WAIT** (from Week 2)
6. Practice **MOVING ATTENTION** (from Week 2)
Say your puppies name and then move away. Mark and reward once she reaches you.
7. Practice **LOOSE LEASH** movement and walking (from Week 3)
Warm up in a distraction free environment and limit number of steps before reinforcement. Start practicing in other locations and slowly add distractions.
6. Practice **STAY** (from Week 4)
Warm up with either Stay:Duration, Stay:Distance or Stay:Distractions. Practice only one at a time and then move to a new locations. Start combining them once you are successful with each by itself.
7. Practice **RETRIEVING** (from Week 4)
8. Teach **LEAVE IT**
Work on having your puppy leave treats in your hand. This can also be practiced on the ground.
9. Teach a **TRICK** for graduation
It can be anything: sit pretty, spin, roll over, back up, shake, high five, bow...
10. Continue to practice **NOTHING FOR FREE** (from Week 2)
Remember to ask for a behavior/trick as payment for things your puppy wants
11. **TOUCH** your puppy all over
This will get your puppy accustomed to being handled. Focus on paws, mouth ears and tail. Keep sessions short and fun
12. **VISIT** two new people and two new places (if shots are complete)



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LINKS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are some links for additional information on topics we covered this week. Some also contain "how to" videos.

1. Leave It - Kikopup: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNAOe1djDyc>
2. The Advanced Stay, Part 1 - Smart Dog University: <https://smartdoguniversity.com/teaching-advanced-stay/>
3. The Advanced Stay, Part 2 - Smart Dog University: <https://smartdoguniversity.com/advanced-stay-part-2-video/>
4. Expanding Your Training Space - Whole Dog Journal: http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/eletter/profile/1/264216.html?ET=wholedogjournal:e264216:910481a:&st=email&s=p_TOTW030717
5. Teaching Tricks - Kyra Sundance: <https://www.youtube.com/user/kyrasundance/videos>
6. Teach Your Dog to Eat from a Kong - Smart Dog University: <https://smartdoguniversity.com/teach-dog-eat-kong-video/>
7. Common Myths Dispelled - Whole Dog Journal: http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/11_2/features/Canine-Behavior-Myths_16004-1.html
8. Stop Barking at the Door - Kikopup: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpzvgN9JNUA>
9. How to House Train Your Puppy - Smart Dog University: <https://smartdoguniversity.com/house-train-puppy/>
10. Puppy Biting Solved - Smart Dog University: <https://smartdoguniversity.com/puppy-biting-solved/>



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LEAVE IT

Why teach your dog leave it?

The leave-it command is great for calling your dog away from things not intended for him, like appetizers set out on your coffee table or things that are downright dangerous, like chicken bones left on the street.

How to train it.

Warm-up.

Step 1. Place a treat in your hand. When your dog shows interest in your hand, hold it still and say, "Leave it." If necessary, close your hand to keep your dog from getting the treat, but don't move your hand away.

Step 2. As soon as your dog pulls away or loses interest, mark and then treat from your other hand. Use a treat as good as or better than the one you asked your dog to leave alone.

Table exercise.

Step 1. Place treats on a dining table, coffee table, or counter. Stay within arm's length so you can cover up the treats if needed. You can place them on a plate to imitate real life.

Step 2. When your dog shows interest tell him, "Leave it." If he looks away or hesitates, mark and reward him with a separate treat. If he goes for the food, say, "Ah-ah" (a No Reward Mark) and cover up the food. When he stops trying to get at it, mark and reward.

The reward treat should not come from the pile on the table, and should either be the same type of treat or something better.

Step 3. When you get a 100% success rate with 10 trials (your dog never tries to go for the treats on the table), add distance between yourself and the table. Ask someone to help protect the food if needed or have your dog on a leash to stop him from getting at the food if he tries.

Floor or ground exercise.

Step 1. Repeat the above exercise, but with the food on the ground. You can also use trash with a food smell or something else you want your dog to be able to leave alone.

Step 2. Next, put food or trash on the ground and practice leave it while you and your dog walk by. Begin by passing at a good-sized distance and work your way closer and closer to the enticing object as your dog gets better at the exercise.

You can do this with anything you see on the ground. When your dog notices the object, tell him, "Leave it" and reward any response of looking toward you. Just be sure to stay far enough away for your dog to be unable to reach the object.

Training Tip: The sooner you give the command, the better. If your dog is already intrigued by an object, it is much harder for him to leave it alone.



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FADING FOOD REINFORCEMENT

Why fade the food?

Because no one wants to carry around food all the time, and we want dogs to respond regardless of whether food is present.

How to do it.

Step 1. Use life rewards early on when you train a new behavior. As soon as you are getting a reliable response to a new cue—a solid four out of every five trials—start interspersing non-food rewards with food rewards. For example, throw a ball or bring out a favorite squeaky toy to reward your dog occasionally, while continuing to use food rewards for the rest of your dog's responses.

Step 2. Begin asking for more tricks per treat. In the beginning when your dog is learning something new, you should reward each right response. But once he has the hang of it, start asking him to do several cues in a row before he gets a treat, so you start establishing the idea that he doesn't get something every time.

Step 3. Vary how often you reinforce, and what you use to reinforce with. You might give a treat for a single response, then a treat after three responses, then a ball toss after two responses, and so on.

Eventually use more and more life rewards and fewer treats. Keep it varied to keep your dog guessing—it's exciting not to know when the next reward will come and what it will be.

Troubleshooting: If your dog's behavior starts to break down and become less reliable, that's a clear sign you are getting too stingy. Be sure to reinforce more often and with better rewards. Check that the rewards you use are actually interesting to your dog. It's not reinforcement if the rewards used aren't reinforcing.

Training Tip: Be random. Avoid reward patterns such as ball toss, ball toss, treat. Also avoid reinforcement patterns such as giving a reward for every fifth response. Dogs quickly pick up on such patterns, and the training suffers accordingly.



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ADVANCED STAY

Putting the 3 Ds together.

Combine distance, distraction, and duration slowly. For example:

- Choose a quiet area and work on duration stays.
- Another day, choose a quiet area and work on distance stays.
- Another day, choose a quiet area and work on duration and distance, making both easier than on occasions where you only worked on one or the other.
- Choose a slightly busier location and work on duration stays.

And so on.

Whenever you practice in a new place, adjust the distance or duration of the stay until your dog is successful despite the new place being interesting. Novelty wreaks havoc on canine concentration, so be prepared to compensate.

How to practice.

Step 1. Stand in front of your dog. Tell your dog, “Stay” in a cheerful tone of voice, pause for a second, then give the stay hand signal: Hand out in front of you, palm facing dog. Step back with both feet. Immediately return to your original position. Mark and treat. Repeat several times.

Step 2. First, add a bit of duration. Tell your dog to stay, pause for a second, give the stay hand signal, and take a small step back with both feet. Pause here for one second (one-one-thousand) before you return to your original position. Mark and treat. Repeat several times.

Step 3. Slowly increase the number of seconds you wait before you return to your original position. Remember to mark and treat each successful try.

Step 4. When you can stand 2 feet away for 5 seconds without your dog getting up, switch to working on distance (if you are in a place where it is safe to let go of the leash—or work with your dog on a 30-foot leash.) Tell your dog to stay, pause for a second, give the stay hand signal, and take a couple of steps back, immediately returning to your original position. Mark and treat. Repeat several times.



ADVANCED STAY (CONTINUED)

Step 5. Slowly increase the number of steps you take back, each time stepping right back in front of the dog. Remember to mark and treat every time. Work up to a distance of 5 feet.

Step 6. Now move your practice sessions to a new area with a bit more activity. Each time you change location, go back to the basics, asking only for one-second stays or one foot of distance. Slowly build up.

Step 7. If at any point during the above exercises you encounter a distraction, such as a dog or person walking by, a loud noise, or scurrying critters, mark and treat immediately before your dog breaks her stay. The idea is to reward her before she has a chance to make a mistake.

Step 8. If your dog starts to get up, tell her, "Ah-ah." If that makes her hold her stay, praise her. Wait a couple of seconds, then reward. If she gets up, tell her, "Too bad," ask for an easier stay and reward her for that. Then work your way back up.

Training Tip: Don't be tempted to add both distance and duration at the same time, even if things are going well. Stick with a few seconds and a distance of a few feet until you have practiced in many different locations.

Training Tip: When you make one thing harder, always make something else easier. For example, if you add duration to your distance stays, make the distance shorter than before you added the duration.

Troubleshooting: If your dog is making more than the occasional mistake, you are going too fast. Go back to something easier and work your way up from there. Remember, the secret to teaching stay is to start easy and go slowly.