

HOMEWORK – WEEK ONE

Skill	What to Do	Required for Next Week
<p>Marker Word</p> <p>Read: <i>Teaching the Marker Word, “Yes”</i> handout</p>	<p>Start building an association between the “yes” marker word and treats, following the instructions on the handout.</p>	<p>Dog understands that “yes” means treats.</p>
<p>Name Response</p> <p>Read: <i>Really Reliable Recalls</i> handout</p>	<p>Practice attention. Work somewhere where there are no distractions, so you are the only interesting thing around. Wait for your dog to look at you, then immediately say his name in a happy, clear voice and offer a treat (don’t do it the other way round!) If your dog doesn’t look away again, you can reset for another repetition by dropping a treat on the ground – then wait for him to look at you again, say his name and offer a treat. Repeat several times. Don’t rush this part, but after a few sessions, try changing to saying your dog’s name in the same happy voice when he <i>isn’t</i> looking at you, and rewarding for immediate focus. If he responds straight away, he has learned to associate his name with good things! If he doesn’t look at you straight away, go back to waiting for attention first.</p>	<p>Dog should respond immediately to name when not looking at handler.</p>
<p>Loose Lead Walking</p> <p>Read: <i>Loose Leash Walking – The Circle Method</i> handout</p>	<p>Use Circle method on all walks, but at least three times during the week. Make sure you are moving the dog into the circle from the side, not pulling him backwards or forwards.</p>	<p>Dog should be showing signs of less pulling and be moving easily into the circle</p>
<p>Sits and Downs</p> <p>Read: <i>Training Sit and Training Down</i> handouts</p>	<p>Practice whichever method is working best for you. Be very patient! Don’t do more than four or five repetitions in a row to prevent strain, but you can add individual sits and downs into your daily routine for extra practice, eg sit for walk, down for dinner.</p>	<p>Dog should be immediately sitting or going down without hesitation when lured with food.</p>
<p>Nose Touch</p>	<p>Practice nose touch, removing food once dog is touching hand reliably and rewarding from your other hand instead. If your dog becomes hesitant or confused, go back to using food in your hand. Introduce cue. Use both hands.</p>	<p>Dog reliably touches either hand when offered, preferably without food</p>
<p>Handling</p>	<p>A short daily session of gentle, slow stroking over body, head, and ears, rewarding with treats if your dog is not keen. Keep this to less than a minute, but stop sooner if your dog shows any reluctance. Allow the dog to walk away if he wants to. Keeping it very slow and gentle means he will be less likely to get excited and try to turn it into a play session.</p>	<p>Dog should be still and allow stroking and allow ears to be gently handled.</p>