



USDTC STAR PUPPY

Lesson 3 Grooming

BRING: Exercise Plan, Clean-up bags, Large or funny hats, glasses or costume.

Name Response: When you give your dog a Command for a Moving exercise you first say your dog's name and then the Command. Saying your dog's name gets your dog's attention so his attention is on you for your next command. On a NON-moving exercise don't say the dog's name before the command. Use the command, "watch me".

Watch Me: This command is used to get your puppy's attention without using his name. When you use his name for a Recall your puppy knows he will be moving toward you. When you say WATCH ME your puppy will look at you and remain where he is. This is typically used on a non-moving exercise. This is a good command to get your puppy to redirect his focus on you. This is taught like the name response. Say WATCH ME, when he looks at you, mark with "Yes", treat, release and praise.

Heeling and Heel Position: Now that his leash introduction is over and he has some idea as to where heel position is, we want to progress rapidly to walking nicely on leash in heel position. Leash should be folded in an accordion style in your right hand. Your left hand is holding the leash tight to keep your puppy on your left side only. With your puppy sitting in heel position beside you, start off with the command "Puppy's Name" (to get his attention) and HEEL. Step off with your left foot. (Moving out with your left foot is a visual command or signal to your puppy meaning you are going to move and puppy is to come with you.) Talk to your puppy. Praise him during heeling in a soothing praising tone. When you stop, ask your puppy to sit. Do not repeat just place your puppy in a sit position (with a treat over his head not forcing) as you are saying "SIT". Praise, treat.

Automatic Sit:

Dangling the carrot method for heeling: Have puppy in heel position, at your left side, while holding the lead firm. Bait should be next to your left leg say "Puppy's Name" (he should look at you for instruction) then "Heel" in you praising tone. Keep his attention on the bait till he is successful walking correctly in heel position. When you come to a halt ask your puppy to "SIT", use the bait over the head to sit your puppy if necessary. Once successful in taking a few steps and getting a sit, without repeating the command, start using your voice to keep him in heel position showing the bait often to keep his attention and keep him walking where he should be. Don't allow much slack in the leash. Praise often during the exercise with your voice and treats.

If you are losing the interest of your puppy while heeling entice him with better treats, higher voice conversations even a squeaky toy is helpful here. Then release and allow him to do puppy things for a while and return to heel position, repeat

When leaving your dog on a Wait or Stay, leave on your right foot. This is a visual command to your puppy that you are leaving without him.

Recall: Recall is the most important command for your puppy to learn. Not to mention that it is highly annoying to have a dog that won't come to you when called. Immediate response to this command can save his life. Never call your dog to you to scold or punish. Remember to always make this exercise a happy experience. Always praise when he comes to you, even if you pull him in with a lead.

RECALL: (COME COMMAND)

PLEASE Remember, the best thing your dog can do is to come when called. **NEVER** call your dog to scold him, bathe, or do anything unpleasant. Keep it all positive!

Recall should be practiced in different areas of your house one room at a time. Make it fun for you and your puppy. Have lots of great treats. Always have a lead handy if necessary for your dog to be successful. Say your dogs' "Name", to get his attention and then the command "Come". If he hesitates show your puppy the treat. If your puppy's interest is elsewhere, start clapping your hands and walking backwards quickly while making high voice noises as if your puppy will miss the fun if he doesn't come. When he comes to you continue in the same area but only use his NAME and COMMAND. If you can not be successful off lead, place him on a lead, or use a retractable lead. Don't forget to treat, release and praise even when he is successful because you pulled him to you. Never practice this outside a fenced in area! Start a short distance from your puppy. Add distance and distractions, different rooms etc... as your puppy succeeds. Always end on success.

Sit and Down Stay: With your puppy in heel position ask your puppy to SIT. Using your left hand with the palm placed over your puppy's eye, say "Stay" in your serious voice. Leave on your right foot to pivot in front of your puppy standing "toes to toes" with them. Count to 3 seconds and pivot back to heel position. Stand up straight for a second then treat, release, and praise. Use your "RELEASE WORD". Your puppy must succeed every time on a STAY. The trick to be successful is to stay close. If you try to back away too quickly, they will break their stay. This will make it harder for your puppy to understand what STAY means. Your goal is to help your puppy achieve 100% success rate. If you think your puppy is going to break at any time during the exercise get back to heel position and release BEFORE they break. If your puppy cannot stay with you close, he will not stay when you move away from him. Success is better then distance.

Doorways and Cars are the best places to practice Wait. Before you take your puppy through a doorway ask your puppy to wait using your hand signal. You walk through before your puppy then call your puppy through. Before you get out of your car, ask your puppy to "Wait" before you open your door. For the safety of your puppy, make sure your puppy waits before he jumps or is carried out the car door.