



USDTC STAR PUPPY
Lesson 5 Homework
Agility

BRING NEXT WEEK: Clean-up bags

COME: Come is a recall. Come is the most important command you can teach your puppy. The Come command can/may save your puppy's life so never call your puppy to punish or scold. Always reward and praise. Come must be successful every time or you need to back up a step in training. Always teach Come with IMPORTANCE. Say your puppy's name, to get his attention" and say "COME". When he comes, treat and praise big. Try to repeat your puppy's success under the same circumstance, if possible. Always quit the exercise on a success.

Come should be done on a long leash to make sure your Come is successful EVERY TIME. Progress to different areas of your house then yard. Once your puppy is successful with the long lead, finish without the lead. Know your puppy will be successful without the leash before taking the leash off. Discontinue the exercise only after your puppy has been successful. If practicing outside always practice in a fenced area.

There are several ways to get your puppy to come to you if you lose control of him. Clap your hands, and use a lot of words in a high pitch voice and start running backwards while keeping eye contact with your puppy. Never chase your puppy. Never scold or punish even if you are upset. Love on your puppy anyway and learn what you did wrong.

STAND STAY: Continue practicing the stand. This week add STAY with the hand that was previously underneath your puppy. Ask your puppy to STAY with your hand signal, stand up straight for a few seconds. Treat, release, and praise saying "Good Stand". Our goal is to not allow them to walk forward or to move any feet – only their head and tail can move on this exercise. This is a hard exercise because it's very easy to walk out of it, so stay close.

AGILITY: Is an AKC sport open to any dog. It's a sport that requires obedience as its foundation. Puppies are not recommended to start until they have completed Basic Obedience and they are close to maturity for competition. USDTC offers agility for beginners to advance by instructors competing in the sport. Learning from experienced and titled trainers is a benefit for you and your dog.

RIGHT & LEFT TURN: This will help teach your dog where heel position is. You will say your dog's name and heel and make a 1/4 turn to the right, moving your right foot first at a 90' angle. To make a 1/4 turn to the left you again move your right foot first and make a 90' angle to the left. If your dog has trouble finding heel, take an extra step forward and guide him into a sit in heel position.

THE BARKING DOG

Barking is a natural part of dog communication and most of us would like for our dogs to bark to alert us to visitors, possible intruders, or the fact that it needs to go out. However, when the barking is uncontrolled, it usually becomes excessive to the point of not only annoying us, but our neighbors as well. So it is important not only for your own peace of mind, but for the peace of the neighborhood, that you take steps to either prevent your dog from becoming an excessive barker, or to limit barking if it has already become a problem.

First let's deal with some preventive techniques. Your dog always has a reason for barking, and one of the most common ones is to get your attention. So it is important to make sure that you don't unknowingly reward the dog for barking. A reward can be anything that the dog wanted from being let out of its crate, to getting you to toss a ball, give it a treat, or pet it. Here are some simple steps to help avoid training your pet to be a nuisance barker:

- 1) Never let your dog out of its crate or other confined area while it is making noise, (barking, whining, etc.) This only rewards the dog for its barking, and eventually the dog will start barking as soon as it is confined and won't stop until you let it out, even if it means barking all day while you are at work. Always wait until the dog has been quiet for at least several seconds before letting it out of confinement.
- 2) Never reward your dog for barking with a treat, praise or petting unless you have given it a specific command to speak. Sometimes a dog will bark after you've given it another command, if it feels it hasn't been rewarded fast enough. If this happens, correct your dog for barking and wait until it is quiet to reward it for the original command. Also try to praise and reward for commands more quickly before the dog has a chance to bark.
- 3) Never reward your dog for barking by playing with it. Sometimes a dog will bark at you to try to initiate play. If this happens, correct your dog for barking, or ask it to do another command such as Sit, and wait until it is quiet before you begin play. Sometimes something as simple as ignoring the dog until it is quiet can help alter the behavior.
- 4) Never encourage barking during play. Sometimes when a dog gets excited during play it will start to bark. When this happens, stop play and correct the dog for barking or ignore it until it is quiet again, and then immediately resume play. You may have to start and stop several times during a play session, but be patient and consistent.
- 5) If your dog barks out in the yard and you have a chain link fence, consider replacing it with a solid fence to limit the dogs chances of being provoked by the sight of passing cars, people or dogs.

Now let's explore some ways to correct and distract a dog that is already barking. First let's look at some tools that may help you correct and /or distract your dog.

- 1) Your Voice – Giving a correction such as Quiet, Hush, or No Bark in a firm loud voice may be enough to stop your dog from barking momentarily, allowing you to praise it for being quiet and distract it from its barking. Some sort of voice correction should accompany all of these tools.
- 2) A Penny Can – Any metal can with a lid that you can put a few coins inside will work. Shaking the Penny Can may stop your dog's barking momentarily, once again allowing you to praise the dog for stopping and to distract it. .
- 3) A Squirt Bottle or Water Pistol – make sure that the bottle or water pistol is set for a fine stream and not a mist. Start out using plain water and squirt the dog in the chest or side when it barks. Again praise the dog if it stops. If, after several tries, plain water is not effective, you can mix water and white vinegar in gradually increasing strengths until it becomes effective. You may also try substituting lemon juice, or in extreme cases, Listerine, for the vinegar. Whatever you choose, increase the concentration gradually, and use only the minimum strength necessary to quiet the dog. Always aim for the dog's chest or side to avoid unnecessary eye irritation.

You may have to employ these tools several times in order to quiet the dog altogether. Remember to be patient and consistent. Correct your dog each time it barks and praise it each time it stops.

If your dog is barking due to confinement, employ one of the corrective tools above, and then ignore it if it becomes quiet, and again don't let it out until it has quieted.

If your dog is barking to alert you to a visitor, outside noise, or the need to go out, you may want to allow it to bark once or twice before correcting it.

For barking at the door, at noises, or at passersby, it is also extremely helpful to distract your dog with a toy or play after you have corrected it. This gives the dog something else to focus on besides barking.

If you have any further questions, or find that your dog is not responding after a concerted effort, or if your dog's behavior is excessive when confined, please consult with your instructor.



UPPER SUNCOAST DOG TRAINING CLUB, INC.

2101 Logan Street, Clearwater, FL 33765 (727) 449-8738

Website: www.USDTC.org

HOT WEATHER CARE FOR YOUR DOG

To protect your pet from summertime hazards, please follow these tips:

- Never leave your pet in a parked car. Even cracked windows won't protect your pet from overheating or suffering from heat stroke during hot summer days.
- Exercise your dog in the early morning or evening hours, instead of during the middle of the day, when it's hottest
- If your dog is out during the day, remember that asphalt and concrete can get very hot and burn the pads of your pet's feet. Your pet must always have shelter available to protect it from extreme temperatures and inclement weather.
- Keep in mind that pets that are older or overweight are more likely to overheat during hot weather.
- Since many people treat their lawns with pesticides at this time of year, keep your pet away from unfamiliar yards and grassy areas.
- Provide your pet with fresh, cool water every day in a tip-proof bowl.
- Keep your pet well groomed, but resist the temptation to shave off all his hair in an effort to keep him cool. A pet's coat will protect him from getting sunburned. The coat also acts as cooling insulation for most animals.
- Keep your pet away from spots or puddles of auto coolant in the garage, driveway or parking lots. The sweet taste of this poisonous liquid is tempting to animals, but could lead to a fatal result.
- Don't let your dog ride in the back of an open vehicle, like a pick-up truck. Unless your dog is riding in the cab with you, your dog could be bounced, or jump, out of the moving vehicle. If your pet must travel in the back of an open vehicle, make sure he's safely tethered to the center of the bed where he's unable to reach the sides and is able to sit or stand on a slip-proof mat.



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BLOAT

Bloat is a potentially fatal condition in which the stomach becomes overfilled with food and/or gas causing it to twist. The blood supply to the stomach can be cut off, or the stomach can rupture. The result, more often than not, is the death of the dog, sometimes in as little as 20 minutes. Any dog can suffer from bloat, but some breeds are more susceptible than others. Check with your breeder or veterinarian to find out about your specific breed.

Although nobody knows exactly what causes bloat, the following guidelines may help to prevent it:

1. Feed your dog at least twice a day. Feeding a large meal once a day may overfill the stomach.
2. Mix moist food or water with your dry food. Dry food alone may cause too much gas.
3. Do not feed your dog within 2 hours of exercise. Being overheated and/or panting causes the dog to take in more air.
4. Using elevated food and water dishes may also cut down on the dog's air intake.
5. Be extra careful in hot weather. Bring water on walks or outings and give your dog small amounts frequently. Do the same when you return home. This prevents the stomach from filling up with water.

Watch your dog after exercise or feeding for signs of distress, which may include:

1. Collapse, dog not wanting to get up
2. Stomach swelling or rigidity
3. Increased stomach sounds
4. Inability to vomit or go to the bathroom
5. Projectile vomiting or diarrhea

If at any time you feel your dog may be bloating, don't hesitate. Take your dog to the vet or emergency clinic immediately. If possible, call and tell them you are coming and why so they will be ready for you when you get there.

Please consult your veterinarian if you have any further questions.