



USDTC STAR PUPPY

Lesson 4

Socialization

BRING: Proof of your Pets ID, Clean-up bags.

Sit and Down STAY: Continue working on the STAY command. This week work on going to the end of the lead. Start toe to toe. Repeat taking one or two steps backwards, return, stand up straight, treat, release, and praise. Gradually work your way to the end of the lead one successful step at a time. You can repeat the command to STAY and/or use your hand in a STAY motion. Try to keep eye contact at all times during the STAY. Look for signs of your puppy to break. Return quickly if needed before your puppy breaks the stay.

Sit for Exam: This week we are going to start having your puppy get used to people coming up to them and touching the top of their head in a Sit Stay. This exercise is helpful when greeting your guests at your front door. With your puppy in Heel position, ask your puppy to SIT. Use your STAY hand signal. (STAY means your puppy is not to move. Remember, there is a beginning and an ending to a STAY.) While standing beside your puppy in a Sit Stay, have a friend or neighbor come up to your puppy. If your puppy breaks his STAY, have your friend stop and return to their previous location while you set your puppy up to begin again. Repeat the commands and have your guest enter. Have your puppy sniff the back of your guests hand and then have your guest touch the top of your puppy's head. If the puppy remains in a SIT STAY, Treat and release and give praise in a high voice. If no one else is around, you can practice this yourself but this is best practiced with someone else. This exercise will eliminate jumping up on your guest as they enter your door.

STAND: To get your puppy to stand, simply place your puppy in a sit position. With your right hand, place a treat directly in front of your puppy while saying, "STAND". When your puppy stands, place your left hand palm down, under your puppy, in front of his rear legs. Say, "STAND", Treat, release, and praise. Repeat. Another way to get your puppy to stand is simply walk forward, grab the collar with your right hand and place your left hand in front of the back leg with the palm side down.

Wait with Recall: Wait is signaled from a position of erect standing with puppy in heel position, sitting.. Swing your left hand across your puppy's eyes and say "WAIT". Have another person hold your puppy in the position that you left the dog. Go to the end of your leash, stand up straight and say only puppy's "NAME" and "COME". Walk backwards pulling in the dog. Stop, treat and reward with a happy voice while saying GOOD COME. Repeat 5 times in a row.

CIRCLES: CIRCLES are a complete 360 degree turn. They are either CIRCLE LEFT or CIRCLE RIGHT. The direction called out is the direction in which you lead your puppy to follow. Use your left foot to indicate to your puppy you are changing direction. Accentuate the left leg when turning to give your puppy a heads up. Make wide circles, enough room for both of you to turn together. Talk to your puppy so they will pay attention to you and will want to work to stay with you. Gauge your speed by the size of your puppy's legs. Be decisive, you are the leader. Practice going around objects such as chairs inside or garbage cans outside.

SOCIALIZATION is very important to the well being of your puppy. Try to take your puppy out in the public as often as you can. Introduce them to 100 new strangers. Give the strangers treats to feed your puppy to leave a good and profitable impression on your puppy.

Dog parks are not the best place to take a puppy. Introduce your puppy to other dogs by taking them to your friends that have social dogs. A parade, a pet store, and a festival are examples of places where leashed dogs and responsible owners will help in your goal of socializing your puppy.

Schedule a play date for your puppy to play with other dogs.



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CHEWING/MOUTHING

It's virtually inevitable that a puppy will, at some point, chew up something you value. This is part of raising a puppy. Mouthing in adult dogs is also very common, as all dogs use their mouths to explore the world, and to play and communicate with each other.

The Chewing Puppy

- Minimize chewing problems by puppy-proofing your house. Put the trash out of reach, or buy containers with locking lids. Encourage children to pick up their toys, and don't leave socks, shoes, eyeglasses, briefcases or TV remote controls lying around within your puppy's reach.
- If, and only-if, you catch your puppy chewing on something he shouldn't, interrupt the behavior with a loud noise, then offer him an acceptable chew toy. Praise him lavishly when he takes the toy in his mouth.
- Make unacceptable chew items unpleasant to your puppy. Coating items with "Bitter Apple" can make them unappealing.
- Don't give your puppy objects to play with, such as old socks or children's toys that closely resemble items that are off limits. Puppies can't tell the difference.
- Closely supervise your puppy. Don't give him the chance to go off by himself and get into trouble. Use baby gates, close doors or tether him to you with a six-foot leash so you can keep an eye on him.
- When you must leave your puppy alone, confine him to a small, safe area such as a laundry room or crate. Puppies under 5 months of age shouldn't be crated for more than 4 hours at a time, as they may not be able to control their bladder and bowels longer than that.
- Make sure your puppy is getting adequate physical activity. Puppies left alone in a yard don't play by themselves. Take your puppy for walks and/or play a game of fetch with him as often as possible.
- Give your puppy plenty of "people time". He can only learn the rules of your house when he's with you.
- Encourage acceptable behavior – provide your puppy with lots of appropriate toys; rotate the toys as puppies are more interested in unfamiliar objects; consider the various types of toys that can be stuffed with food; for teething puppies, try freezing a wet washcloth for him to chew on.

The Mouthing Dog

- Always play with your dog with a toy and never with your hands. This way the dog has something acceptable that it can mouth during play. It will also take the focus off your hands or body.
- Discourage rough play, especially with children. Mouthing and light biting are a natural part of rough play between dogs. Encouraging such play with people will make it harder for your dog to control its behavior.
- When your dog mouths your hand, stop play and use a vocal correction such as "No Bite", in a firm, loud voice, but do not take your hand away. The fast motion of your hand as you pull away will only incite the dog to chase it with its mouth. Instead, leave your hand there while you give the vocal correction. If the dog stops, praise it, offer a toy and continue playing. Repeat this whenever your dog mouths.

If you've been consistent with the steps above and you're still having a problem, there are some other methods to try:

- Try spraying Bitter Apple or white vinegar on your hands before playing with the dog. Dogs don't usually like the smell or taste of these, making your vocal correction more effective.
- Try yelping in a high-pitched voice when your dog mouths. Yelping is a sign of pain, and since the dog isn't trying to hurt you, they may refrain from mouthing if you indicate pain.
- If your household includes young children, or the elderly, you may want to consider a basket muzzle for your dog to wear during play. This allows the dog to breathe freely but not bite. Don't leave the muzzle on for extended periods as it also prevents the dog from eating or drinking.

Some dogs will learn not to mouth relatively quickly, while others may take several weeks of correcting before they are reliable. Be patient, and don't give up!



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SPAYING AND NEUTERING

Having your pet spayed or neutered benefits both you and your pet. Your pet can enjoy a longer life and better health, and you get the peace of mind knowing your animal companion is safer and happier. Some specific benefits are:

- Reduced risk of breast, uterine and ovarian cancer or infection in female cats and dogs
- Reduced risk of testicular and prostate cancer or maladies in male cats and dogs
- No unwanted pregnancies
- Reduced incidence of aggressive behavior in male cats and dogs
- Reduced desire to roam, breed, mark territory, or fight with other animals in male cats and dogs
- Reduced desire to roam and breed for female cats and dogs
- Helps alleviate the dog and cat overpopulation problem

Some Common Myths

Myth #1: My pet will get fat and lazy

Truth: Spaying or neutering may diminish your pet's overall activity level, natural tendency to wander and hormonal balances, which may influence appetite. Pets that become fat and lazy after being altered are usually overfed and do not get enough exercise.

Myth #2: If we breed Rover and Fluffy, their offspring will be just like them

Truth: Breeding two purebred animals rarely results in offspring that are exactly like one of the parents. And with mixed breeds, it's virtually impossible to have offspring that exactly like one of the parents.

Myth #3: My pet's personality will change

Truth: Any change will be for the better! After being altered, your pet will be less aggressive towards other dogs or cats have a better personality and will be less likely to wander. Spraying (urine marking), which dogs and cats often do to mark their territory, diminishes or ceases after being altered.

Myth #4: My children should witness our pet giving birth

Truth: Pets often have their litters in the middle of the night or in a place of their own choosing. Because pets need privacy when giving birth, any unnecessary intrusion can cause the mother to become seriously upset. These intrusions can result in an unwillingness to care for the offspring or in injury to the owners of the pet.

Myth #5: I am concerned about my pet undergoing anesthesia

Truth: Placing a pet under anesthesia is a very common concern of owners. Although there is always a slight risk involved, the anesthetics currently used by veterinarians are very safe. Many veterinarians use equipment that monitors heart and upper respiratory rates during surgery to ensure that their patients are doing well under anesthesia.

The medical benefits of having your pet spayed or neutered far outweigh the slight risk involved with undergoing anesthesia. Consult your veterinarian if you are concerned about this aspect of the procedure.

Myth #6: The surgery is painful for the animal, and may harm the pet

Truth: During spaying/neutering, dogs and cats are fully anesthetized, so they feel no pain. Afterwards, most pets seem to experience some discomfort, but all signs of discomfort disappear within a few days, or even a few hours. Serious harm as a result of spay/neuter surgery is extremely rare.

Myth #7: The surgery is expensive

Truth: Spay/neuter surgery generally costs less than most major surgeries, especially if the dog or cat is young and healthy. Also, many areas have low-cost or low-income spay/neuter clinics or programs in which local veterinarians perform spaying/neutering at reduced cost.