

Puppy Homework 1

Sit

1. Lure your puppy's nose up and back with a treat.
2. Give him the treat as soon as his rear goes down - **your puppy must eat his treat in a sit position.**

Down

1. Lure your puppy's nose straight down between his paws and wait for him to lie down.
2. Give him the treat as soon as puppy lies down – **your puppy must eat his treat in a down position.**



If he won't go down: try pulling him through a "tunnel" you make with your leg.

Body Handling

Now is the age to get your puppy comfortable about being restrained, handled and groomed. **Be very generous with treats:** Teach him to always enjoy being handled by giving a treat after every touch. Wait for your puppy to be still in a sit, down or stand position before each touch. If they squirm or move away, stop and wait for them to return to you, then try again, making the drill easier for them:

- Hold & flip ears (give a treat after each one)
- Play with feet, including between toes (give a treat after each foot)
- Gently pull & lift tail
- Tight restraining hug
- Lean over and pat-pat-pat on head like a kid
- Gently tug collar
- Touch belly
- Hold muzzle and lift lips, touch gums & teeth

Biting / Mouthing

ALL puppies bite, it is how they explore the world. A **"Soft Bite"** is gentle enough that you imagine a toddler could tolerate it. A **"Hard Bite"** is *anything else*.

- a) When puppy bites **"soft"**: Trade your skin for a chew toy
- b) When puppy bites **"hard"**, **calmly but quickly separate your puppy from you for 30-60 seconds.**
 - Consider if they are overtired, they may need to be shown to their bed calmly to help them settle down and rest.
 - Can you recognize warning signs that "witching hour" is about to start? Try a pro-active approach by offering a calm chew on their bed and set the stage for a quiet evening *before* the hard biting begins.



Puppy Homework 2

Walking on Leash

Puppies take time getting used to walking on a leash. Feed him treats right next to you every couple of steps as long as he keeps the leash loose.

If he pulls: Stop & wait. Once the leash gets loose again, feed a treat beside you and continue walking.

If he stops walking: It is normal for puppies at this age to stop & take breaks. Let them.

Optional: Try holding a treat out in front of him to encourage him get up and move forward.

Walks should not be longer than 10-15 minutes at this age.

Pulling on Leash Options

If your puppy pulls on leash, consider humane equipment alternatives such as a front attachment anti-pull harness that will give you *power steering*. These are easy for most dogs to get used to, and they comfortably reduce straining on their necks.



Food Bowl Bonuses (Food Guarding Prevention)

Do this at least once per meal so he learns to *love* having food taken away:

1. While puppy is eating, approach, say “thank you” and remove bowl.
2. Add a bonus treat, then put bowl back down

IF your puppy freezes, growls, or snaps at you, **DO NOT pick up bowl**. Stand at a distance where he is relaxed & comfortable, then **toss the bonus to the bowl**.

Object Exchanges

The more you practice, the less likely he will get possessive about his toys and chews.

1. When your puppy is working on a chew-toy, go up to him, say “thank you,”
2. Take the toy away & Give him a surprise treat
3. Then give him his toy back.

IF your puppy freezes, growls, or snaps at you, **DO NOT touch his toy**. Stand at a distance where he is relaxed & comfortable, then **toss treats at him, then walk away**.

Emergency object retrieval: If you need to get the toy, chewy, or object away from your puppy who is displaying resource guarding, cheerfully spill a generous handful of **high value** treats 5ft away from your puppy. Wait for your puppy to get up and collect the treats, then quickly pick up the item and tuck it away out of sight before the puppy returns to it. Offer a new toy as an exchange to help redirect their attention.



Socialization

Now is the age to expose your puppy to **as many people as possible – give a treat for each person she meets!** Take her on lots of car rides and expose her to other animals including cats, friendly dogs, and other puppies.

While dog parks may sound like a great place to find dog friends for your new puppy, it is recommended to avoid dog parks until your puppy is well through their socialization window (18+ weeks of age) to minimize their risk of encountering a negative experience such as a large, exuberant dog charging toward them.

Male dogs should be closely monitored throughout adolescence in off-leash populated dog areas due to the hormonal issues that can arise. Unneutered adolescent males (roughly 5 months to 2+ years old) have an increased tendency for aggression toward other males **or** being targeted aggressively by other male dogs. Controlled, supervised play sessions with known dogs are recommended.



Puppy Homework 3

Loud Noises

Use Youtube or download an App for sound effects if you want to practice a specific noise that you don't otherwise have access to, such as fireworks or barking dogs.

Sudden Noises may include dropping a dish on the floor, knocking on the door, ringing doorbell, stomping feet, another dog barking:

- As soon as your puppy hears the sound, follow up with generous praise & special treats to create a positive association.

Longer duration noises may include fireworks, alarms, sirens, hair dryer or vacuum cleaner.

1. Start the noise and let it continue for 10 seconds
2. Feed treats immediately after the noise begins, for entire 10 seconds
3. turn off sound and stop feeding treats.

Remember: Feed the *entire time* the sound is playing. *Stop feeding* as soon as sound stops.

Puppy won't eat? He may be frightened. Try less noise (drop dish from lower height, turn down volume, muffle the noise in another room with the door closed) until he happily eats throughout the noise.

Grooming Procedures

Now is the age to get your puppy comfortable about grooming procedures. **Be very generous with treats:** Give her a treat every time she is exposed to these tools (you can improvise with similar items you have in your home). Try and get your puppy to stay still in a sit, stand or down position when introducing tools to help them learn to be still throughout the procedure.:

- ❖ Stroke her body with a brush, give a treat
- ❖ Touch foot with nail clippers, give a treat (you don't have to actually clip a nail)
- ❖ Show her a blow dryer (turned off), give a treat
- ❖ Put into DRY bath tub, give a treat
- ❖ Touch her with hair clippers (turned off), give a treat
- ❖ Feed treats through a muzzle

Note: If they squirm or pull away, stop and wait for them to settle and show interest in continuing, then try again, making it easier with less of a touch or simply placing the item on the floor for your puppy to sniff.

Crate Training

Toss treats into crate for your puppy to follow, then let him exit the crate. If he won't go all the way in, start placing treats near the front of the crate where he is comfortable.



Puppy Homework 4

Coming When Called

- 1) Call your puppy's name or use a recall word
- 2) Back away or prompt your puppy to come to you with some happy talk
- 3) Praise and treat for 10 seconds – this is important behavior so be generous 😊

Also, call your puppy for good things such as walks, dinner or play. Never call your puppy for something he might not like, especially to reprimand him.

Putting on Clothing or Harnesses

Give a treat every time you put on her harness or other clothing. Wait for them to stay in either a sit, down or stand position, and be patient, giving treats frequently throughout the process if your puppy displays difficulty with the procedure.

Dogs may require clothing for cold or wet weather or recovering from surgery or healing a wound. It is helpful to practice this skill even if you don't plan on dressing up your dog on a regular basis.

Note: If your puppy freezes up and doesn't want to move once the harness or clothing is on, it may be too scary for him. Try making it easier by just giving treats for putting the head or a leg through, then taking it off again quickly and repeat.

New Walking Surfaces

Walk your puppy on as many new surfaces as you can. Follow your Puppy Socialization Checklist. Praise and give a treat for every new surface he walks on.

Remember: Never force him to walk on a surface that he's unsure of. Give him treats for sniffing and investigating, and celebrate with treats when he chooses to take his first step!