

Beginners - Week 6

Pinelands K9



Agenda

- Review
 - Heeling
 - Forward, Slow, Fast, Normal, About Turns, Circle Right, Circle Left, Halt
 - Sit, Down, Stand, Sit Stay(w Praise), Stand Stay, Recall, Watch Me, Owner Exam Leave it
- Sit/Stay – Group
- Eye Contact w Dogs
- Leave It – walking past a treat
- Approaching someone's dog
- Greeting someone with a dog
- Allowing Strangers to touch your dog
- Saying Hello
- Things to Remember

Review

Each handler should demonstrate:

- ☐ HEELING - Forward
 - Slow, Fast, Normal, About Turn,
Circle Right, Circle Left, Halt
w Automatic Sit
- ☐ SIT – DOWN
- ☐ SIT – STAND
- ☐ OWNER EXAM
- ☐ RECALL – out for a walk
- ☐ WATCH ME
- ☐ SIT STAY – END OF LEASH
- ☐ DOWN STAY – END OF LEASH
- ☐ LEAVE IT

Sit / Stay in a group

Sit/Stay in a Group:

- All the dogs line up in a row and are told to SIT/STAY.
- Handlers step out in front of their dogs, only as far as your dog is comfortable.
- Distance from your dog is not a competition for this. Its about you and your dog and the progress you have made.
- Each time this exercise is completed successfully, wait longer before returning to your dog.
- As your dog becomes more comfortable with you stepping away for longer periods of time, step back a little bit further until you can step back to the end of the leash.
- Be careful not to pull on the leash or they will see it as a sign to come towards you.
- Be prepared during this group exercise to correct your dog if they attempt to move towards other dogs. It's a big temptation.
- Do not yell at your dog if they move but simply return and put them back in a SIT/STAY and step out again, closer this time.

Eye Contact - Discussion

Eye Contact:

- Your dog should never be staring down another dog – this is seen as a challenge between dogs
- If you see this behavior with your dog stop it immediately before it escalates
- Use your watch me command or Leave It command
- Turn your dog in a different direction , Use the about turn you learned in class, or Circle and return to place to break the eye contact
- Talk to your dog

Leave It – Walking past a treat

Leave It – walking past a treat:

- You are out walking with your dog. (heeling lefthand side)
- There is a treat on the ground.
- As your dog attempts to get the treat, tell them Leave it and pop the leash if they proceed to try to get the treat.
- Do not drag your dog by a training collar
- Change direction if necessary while practicing / training to avoid your dog reaching the treat.
- Say Heel, Watch Me – saying no to what your dog wants to do isn't enough. Tell them what you WANT them to do. Use treats if necessary to get their attention away from the treat on the ground.

Approaching someone else's dog - Discussion

Approaching someone else's dog:

- ALWAYS, ALWAYS ask if the dog is friendly
- Ask if its okay to pet
- Wait and Listen to their response.
 - If they say to let the dog approach you first – be patient and wait
 - If they say the dog is shy, ..respect that, ask if they would prefer you not pet
 - (Some people might appreciate the opportunity to let their dog come out of his/her shell)
 - If they say the dog is not friendly, okay thank you I wont upset your dog
 - If they say its okay – approach slowly, hand first to let them get a sniff
 - Never try to pet a dog that is over excited and lunging at you. Only pet a dog that is calm OR being trained by the handler to sit first and then pet
- Never approach a dog that is barking at you to get away
- Never touch someone else's dog without their permission
- Never start out reaching over their head...dogs see that as dominant behavior and even the nicest dog may not take it well

Greeting someone with a dog

Greeting someone with a dog:

- If you are approaching someone with a friendly dog, and you want to stop and say Hello:
 - Be sure that the body language of both dogs is receptive to being near each other. No barking or overstimulation out of control.
 - It is YOUR responsibility to maintain control of your dog, first and foremost.
 - Do not worry about the other person until you have told YOUR dog what you expect from them.
 - Have them sitting on your lefthand side.
 - Tell them to Stay.
 - Greet the person but be prepared to correct your dog if he/she moves
 - Your dog should remain sitting through the encounter.
 - He/She should not jump on the person or get in the face of the other dog.

Allow Strangers to touch your dog

****Not for ALL****

Allow Strangers to touch your dog:

- If someone asks to pet your dog and your dog is just not friendly – do not be afraid to say “No” “he/she is not very friendly.” OR “we are training and he/she is not ready for interaction” “Thank you for asking first” Its OKAY to say “No”, politely.

Otherwise: (if your dog is friendly)

- Put your dog in the SIT/STAY position.
- As the stranger approaches, remind your dog to stay.
- Be ready to correct him if he attempts to get up or jump.
- Don't yell at him or tell him he's bad if he moves. Just put him /her back in place and try again.
- At home, put your dog on a leash, let friends and family pet him/her but only while sitting.

NEVER allow someone to proceed petting your dog if your dog is not receptive (growling or barking or just general body language)

DO NOT force your dog to interact with someone.

Shorten your leash and make sure that your dog cannot go closer without your permission.

- If someone else is holding your dog, never let them jump on you when returning to them, tell them to SIT or STAY. Once the leash is handed back to you...praise.

Saying Hello

Saying Hello:

- Teach your dog the proper way to greet strangers.
- When they meet someone, they know and like, attach a command to it like, "Say Hello".
- They can approach the person, but NOT jump.
- Then praise your dog for being nice. When your dog encounters a stranger, use the same command, "Say Hello". Your dog will learn to be more trustful of strangers you tell them to approach.
- This exercise may not be for everyone. If your dog is not friendly, do not force this exercise.
- Also, maybe you do not want your dog to go up to strangers, it's a judgement call.



Praise

Praise with your voice ONLY when you are working on an exercise with your dog. Praise with your voice AND petting when the exercise is finished.



Train

Train with your dog for 15 minutes, once or twice a day. Some commands should be part of everyday life, like walking on the leash without pulling and doing a sit-stay at the door instead of bolting out.

Remember to do the Owner exam DAILY

Once your dog is comfortable, ask a friend to do the exercise with your dog.



Recall

Recall could save your dog's life. Practice daily. Do not use the command unless you can reinforce it (on a leash to correct)



People and Dog Interaction

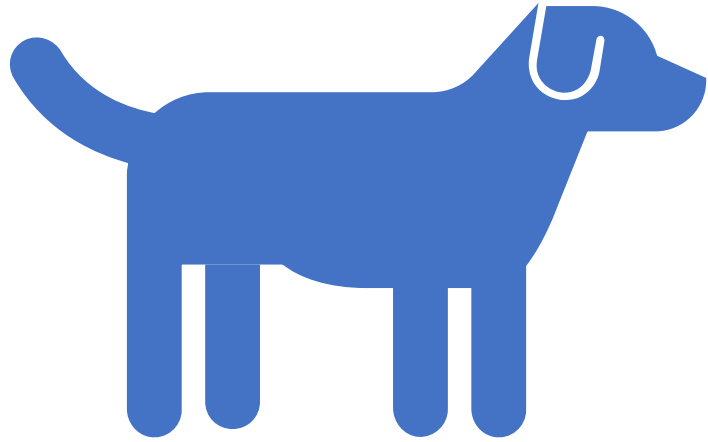
Never force your dog to interact with other dogs or people. If they don't want to, there may be a reason. If your dog is shy, then you can work with them to building up that confidence but never force it.



Review

Continue to work on all the exercises Week 1 thru 6. Obedience is not magical; it takes LOTS of work. You have a good foundation; don't lose all the work you have put into it.

Things to Remember



Things to Remember

- Keep treats on hand while training, but try to transition to praise
- Treats should be small and easy to eat
- Make sure collar is on correctly
- Respect the space of other's dogs
- Continue training your dog with what you have learned here.
- Exercise your dog – a tired dog is a happy dog
- Practice, Practice, Practice
- Continue to practice “Sit and Down” until you can keep your dog in position for 30 minutes. It takes work.
- You can always repeat Beginners class to reinforce what you have learned and have a distracting place to practice it.