

THE THREE MOST USEFUL THINGS TO TEACH YOUR NEW PUPPY

Introduce "Look at Me,"
"Wait," and "Here" right
away, and you will use
them almost every day of
your dog's life!



"Look at Me"

- All dog training starts with teaching your dog to pay attention to you when you say their name.
- It is best to decide your new puppy's name before you even meet, but if you haven't thought of a perfect name yet, or you want to see what fits their personality, just teaching them to look at you when you say "Puppy" will work just fine.
- For the first two weeks, I recommend feeding all meals and treats by hand. This way, your puppy will quickly learn to look at you as the source of all things tasty and wonderful. Food is very important to dogs. It is an instant way to win over their canine hearts and bond with them forever.
- Once your dog is looking to your hand for the food, say their name in a calm, sweet way. If you hold the food up to your nose or eyes, their gaze will automatically follow the food. Once their eyes meet yours, MARK the eye contact using a CLICKER or MARKER WORD, like YES or NICE.
- Soon after, start to add a lure to sit (you do not need to say sit) with the treat to make this behavior complete.
- Pretty soon, after just a few repetitions, your puppy will automatically sit in front of you and look up into your eyes when they hear their name.

“Janie” will look at me, and automatically sit when I say her name.



"Wait"

Wait is an essential word for your puppy to learn for many reasons:

- 1. It teaches your puppy to be considerate of humans and "yield" for them when crossing thresholds like doors, getting into and out of the car, or crossing the street at curbs on the sidewalk. It teaches your puppy, "People first, Dogs second."
- 2. For SAFETY, it teaches your puppy not to bolt out of the front door or across the street.
- 3. It tells the puppy to "hold on" before doing anything, like eating from their bowl, jumping onto a surface, or off of something that is so high that they need assistance, like a grooming table or the exam table at the vet.
- I use Wait multiple times a day with my dogs, Most often, to remind them to stay back when I open the front door, open the car door if they are inside, and I use Wait at every meal. We "Wait" at the food bowl, for permission to go ahead and eat.

“Wait”
Will keep
your dog in
the car until
you are
ready to
lead them
out safely.



"Here" or "Come" When Called

- Everyone wants a dog that will come running when they are called. This is called a "Recall" in formal dog obedience. This can be challenging if you cannot make yourself more exciting than whatever it is your dog is doing or distracted by.

Tips for a Great Recall:

- 1. Use Good or REALLY Good (High Value) treats as the reward. This means never call your dog to you unless you are going to give them a treat. When you are practicing "Here" at home, break out the good stuff! Chopped up bits of cheese, chicken, soft "high value" training treats, or even frozen bits of hot dogs.
- 2. Practice first at home on a long leash with very little distraction. Then, practice at home without the long leash. "Hide and Seek" is a fun way to practice with the whole family. Everyone go to a different room and have the high value treats ready. Your puppy will fly from room to room when they are called.
- 3. Start at Home. Slowly take your Recall on the road. ONLY after your puppy has mastered it in your house or back yard, should you take your treats with you to more crowded places off leash like the dog park. I actually recommend waiting until your dog has an impressive Recall at home before taking them anywhere leash-free.
- 4. If your dog doesn't come to you, don't lose your patience and yell at them. Why would your dog come to you when they can sense that you are mad? "Go Get Them" with the treat in hand, and lure them back to where you called them. Praise them when you both get there, give them the treat, and practice again. Start small all over again with shorter distances at home.

The Three Things Every Puppy Should Learn:

Look at Me When I Say Your Name.

Your dog will look at you in the eye (and sit in front of you if they are close) when you say their name.

Wait.

Wait for people to cross thresholds, curbs, entryways, and **Wait** for people to lead the way.

Recall.

Your dog will come to you when they are called. Use "Here" or "Come" or whatever Recall word you like other than their name. It always means a high value, extra tasty treat when they get there.