Appendix

Terminology to know - You will hear the following terms:

Rate of Reinforcement – means how often you treat and reward your dog. A high rate of reinforcement means that you treat often and a lot versus a low rate of reinforcement which is when you might only give a reward every other time or every 2-3 times your dog preforms the behavior. When first teaching a new skill, use a high rate of reinforcement so your dog stays engaged and continues to keep trying. Once your dog learns a behavior and it is on cue, you can then reduce the rate in which he is rewarded for the behavior. This keeps your dog working for the reward without frustration.

Setting Criteria – criteria is the exact behavior you are willing to reward. For instance, when teaching a new behavior, you might have to shape small increments in order to get a complete behavior such as a Down. Your criteria for breaking down the behavior might look like Head Down, Paws stretched, Elbows Down, Tummy on Floor. Each of these are stages your dog will do to get a complete behavior and you determine what part of the behavior (criteria) you'll reward for as they go through the process of learning to lay on the floor.

80% rule – your dog is able to perform a behavior 8 times out of 10. We use the 80% rule to determine the success of a behavior in order to put a name to it or to increase distractions or duration.

On Leash, Off Leash – work with your dog both on leash and off leash when learning new skills so that the leash itself doesn't become a cue to do the behavior.

4 on the Floor – All four feet are on the floor

Sets and Repetitions – multiple Repetitions make one Set. For example, we'll say do 2-3 sets for 10 repetitions. This means count out 2-3 piles of 10 treats. Once one set of 10 treats are done you take a break and then to the other set. This allows your dog to perform the new behavior several times in a row and get a break before continuing on to doing another round of training.

Treat in position – give your dog the treat reward in their mouth so they stay in position and not move away.

Toss the treat – toss a treat onto the floor so your dog has to get out of position to get the treat. This is also known as "reset" the dog.

The Shedd Way – this is a method for practicing multiple learned behaviors during the same training. It allows your dog to practice different behaviors keeping the session fun and exciting. It is a good way to practice a new behavior mixed in with those your dog already know so that the new behavior is rewarded by performing other highly reinforced behaviors, as well as, a treat reward.

How to Name the Behavior or add the Cue

Before you start to add the cue you want to make sure your dog understands what you want. Test your pup to see if they are deliberately doing the behavior to get you to click. There is a bit of "feel" here of knowing your dog's body language to determine this. As you and your dog progress in your learning this will become easier.

Once your dog has passed the above test:

1. Do 5-40 repetitions where you say the cue right as the dog performs the behavior. Click and treat each successful repetition. For example, if you are working on sit you would say "sit" right as the dog's rump hits the ground. If you were working on go to your mat and lay down, you would say "mat" right as the dog's elbows hit the surface of the mat.
2. 5-40 repetitions where you say the cue right after the dog starts the behavior. Click and treat each successful repetition. Example 1: For sit you would say "sit" right as the dog starts to squat into the sit. Example 2: For go to mat you would say "mat" right as the dog starts to lay down on the mat.
3. 5-40 repetitions where you say the cue right as the dog starts the behaviors. Click and treat each successful repetition. Example 1: for sit you would say "sit" just as their weight shifts onto the back legs to sit. Example 2: for go to mat you would say "mat" right as the dog starts to walk towards the mat.
4. For all following repetitions you will say the cue before the dog start the behavior. When you are at this step the behavior is now officially "on cue", meaning the dog knows what to do when you say the cue.

The 3 D's – Making behaviors more reliable

The three "D's:" Distraction, Duration and Distance. It is important to remember to only add one "D" at a time. It is also important that you add "D's" in this order; 1). Distraction, 2) Duration, and 3) Distance. For example, if I just taught my dog the cue "sit", I would first add a Distraction by getting him to do a sit in a different room. Once he can do that, I would add a new Distraction by standing on one foot when I said "SIT." At this point, working in the same room, add some Duration to the sit. Timed in small increments and increasing over time.

Formula for adding a "D"

Follow the formula below when you are ready to add a "D".

1. Test to make sure your dog is performing the behavior between 80% - 100% correct at the current level of difficulty.
2. Add one of the "D"'s. For example, if my dog can sit in the living room 100% of the time I will try bouncing a ball when I say "SIT".
3. Test to make sure your dog can do the behavior with the new "D" at least 60% correct. So if my dog misses 3 sits in a row when I add the bouncing ball that is too hard. So change your "D" to make it easier. For example you could just hold the ball instead of bounding it.
4. Practice the behavior in sets of 5 repetitions with the new "D" until your dog can perform at a 80%-100% of the time correct.

Continue to follow this process for all the different levels of Distraction, Duration and Distance.

Practice Master List

Use this list to help you keep track of working in different environments for practicing adding distractions and durations.

Home		**Places**	
	Each room of the house (different floor surfacing)		List 3 places you go regularly without your dog and practice in the parking area of those places.
	front porch		Place 1:
	Back porch		Place 2:
	Front yard		Place 3:
	Back yard		List 3 places you would like to take your dog and practice in the parking area of those places.

	Fence barking neighbor dog		Dog Place 1:
	Driveway		Dog Place 2:
Visitors			Dog Place 3:
	Entering house		Vet's Office
	Leaving house	**All family members practice**	
	Moving about the house		Whisper cue, yell cue, high voice, low voice
	Sitting		Cue right as you get out the door
On your walk			Wiggling your body when you cue
	Dog and person approaching on walk		Lying on floor/couch
	Loose dogs in neighborhood		Walking around or standing on one leg
	Fence barking dog on walk		Cleaning, sweeping, vacuuming
	Side walk dry/wet		Cooking
	Grass dry/wet		Cue right when you get home
			Talking on the phone
Toys			Working at computer
	Holding a toy		Watching TV/Reading
	Bouncing toy		Yard work
	Rolling toy	**Time of Day**	
Noises			When you wake in the morning
	Squeaker		Before work
	Door Bell/Knocking		After work
	Hair Dryer		Dog's meal time
	Kitchen appliances (like a blender)		Family meal time