Puppy Start Right Preschool: Obstacle Week

Marking

Choose a “mark” word like yes or good or use a clicker. The mark occurs as your puppy is doing a behavior and is always followed immediately by a reward. The mark is a special word or sound that your puppy recognizes as a reinforcer for the behavior marked and they know a treat will come as the reward.

Training Practice: Practice exercises in short sessions through out the day. Use your puppies kibble along with tasty treats based upon the distraction in the room

Training Exercises

Name Game

- Say your puppies name in a happy tone
- The moment your puppy turns toward you, mark with yes, good or a click so the treat and toss it away with “find-it”
- As puppy is picking up treat say their name again and repeat
- Play the game randomly in different rooms of your home

Problem Solve: If puppy does not turn toward you instead of saying their name again make a high-pitched noise such as Yip, Wahoo, Smooch, etc.

Hand Target

- Present the palm of your hand a few inches from your puppies’ nose
- Mark the moment your puppy touches your hand
- Give puppy a treat
- Next move the palm of your hand around puppy’s head so puppy moves head to touch your hand with their nose
- Mark and treat
- Next move away from puppy, present palm of hand and as puppy moves toward your hand add a special word “touch” “follow” “target”
- Practice moving around the house with your puppy following you and coming to you to touch the palm of your hand

Problem Solve: If puppy does not come toward hand. Put hand behind your back and repeat or get closer or hide a treat between your fingers

Name Game

- Say your puppies name in a happy tone
- The moment your puppy turns toward you, mark with yes, good or a click so the treat and toss it away with “find-it”

- As puppy is picking up treat say their name again and repeat
- Play the game randomly in different rooms of your home

Gotcha

Puppies learn to keep coming to you when you reach out your hand vs backing away

- Treat in one hand
- Show puppy treat
- Say “Gotcha” as you reach and grab collar and treat at you grab
- Release when treat is gone

Add It Together

- Happily say puppies name
- Praise for turning toward you
- Show target hand
- Mark for touch
- Give treat as touching collar saying “Gotcha”

Offered Eye Contact

- Move around the house on and off leash
- Mark your puppy for offering eye contact
- Treat

Sit-Down-Sit-Stand (puppy push-ups)

- Treats in hand lure puppy into a sit by slowly raising treat from puppies nose and up and say sit the moment puppy’s behind hits the ground (puppy is licking the treat)
- From sit lure into a down by drawing an L slowly from puppies nose in a line from nose to between paws on ground and slowly out and say down the moment your puppies elbows touch the ground (puppy is licking treat
- From down lure puppy back up into a sit and say sit as puppy moves into the position
- From sit pull treat slowly straight out from nose until puppy does into a stand and say “stand”
- When puppy is reliably following treat, remove food lure and practice the puppy push-ups with hand target only then give treats

Also practice eye contact when in positions by hold treat in hand with pointer finger between your eyes. Give treat!