Week 5 Clever Paws Foundation Skills Class Student Guidebook

This week is about putting it all together! Practicing the different behaviors and skills everyone has learned by continuing to work on adding distractions and duration to really create solid behaviors.

As we prepare to end our weeks of training, you should be practicing behaviors your dog knows in multiple places so they can begin to generalize across different environments, go to a pet store one time this week to practice, go to a different part of your house you haven't worked in yet, the garage, on the front porch, a neighbors or a friend's house, keep everything successful, watch your distraction, duration and distance levels, use high value rewards when practicing in new places

Loose Leash Walking – exploring

This week is more practice with Loose Leash Walking. Keep working on walking forward and rewarding for position with slack leash. Add random turns to your walks, using the Let's Go cue to keep dog in position. Let dog sniff and exploring while leash walking.

Steps:

1. Give your dog the cue, "let's go" and begin walking forward
2. Take a few steps together before clicking. Mix up how often you click and treat by using the Ping Pong Method (2 steps click/treat, 6 steps click/treat, 4 steps click/treat) to keep your dog guessing and their attention on you.
3. Prepare to turn with your dog. Give your cue, "let's go" and turn to go another direction.
4. Click as your dog waits while you turn into them. Continue walking forward.
5. Let dog sniff and explore objects, use "let's go" cue to move in another direction.

Click Points

- Slack in the leash
- Dog walking in position
- Responding to Let's Go cue

Four on the Floor – No jump exercise

Steps:

1. Using a treat in your hand
2. Show a treat, wait for your dog to offer a sit
3. Begin to lower treat
4. If dog moves, remove treat
5. When dog offers sit again, lower treat
6. Mark and give treat once treat reaches a sitting or laying down dog's mouth
7. If dog gets up as you give treat, remove treat
8. Mark and give treat once treat reaches dog's mouth and dog is still sitting or laying down
9. If dog gets up as you give treat, remove treat

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Pick a Trick

Teaching tricks is fun for you and your dog! Dogs like to continue learning. Teaching tricks is one way to do this. Several tricks were demonstrated in class. A few of the tricks in class are detailed out below. Pick a trick to learn for next class. Choose one that was demonstrated in class or pick a different trick to learn and show off. Be creative, have fun!

Targeting a Spin

Warm-up

Warm up with nose to touches on cue.

Steps

1. With your dog standing, place a familiar target in front of him to encourage a nose touch. As your dog moves towards the target to touch it with his nose, slowly pull the target away so he has to take a step or two to touch it. Click and treat for following the target.
2. Repeat this process several times, each time trying to get another step towards the target. Keep a high rate of reinforcement throughout this process.
3. Slowly draw your target in a circle fashion. It takes some dogs a couple tries to follow the target in a circle fashion. Don't rush this, just click and treat small incremental steps of the path.
4. If your dog needs a little encouragement, have a treat in your target hand to help jumpstart his movement.
5. Repeat, 3 sets of 10 reps, Praise and give your dog a break
6. When your dog is following the target in a complete circle add the cue "Spin" to the process. Say the cue as he is following the target.
7. Repeat, 3 sets of 10 reps, Praise and give your dog a break
8. Start the process by saying the cue "Spin," present target to follow.
9. Repeat several times, pausing to see if your dog will start the circle movement upon hearing the word spin.
10. Fade out the target and use a hand signal to initiate the trick.

Click Points

- The start of any movement towards the target
- Following the target for a quarter spin of a circle
- Following the target for a half spin of a circle
- Following the target for a three-quarter spin of a circle
- Nose touch of target after completing a circle

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Targeting a Sit Pretty

Note: Dogs with bad backs or hips should not be asked to do this behavior.

Warm-up

Warm up with nose to target touches on cue.

Steps

1. Start with your dog sitting facing you. Hold a familiar target over his nose so he has to stretch his head up to touch it. Some dogs will lift themselves into a Sit Pretty the very first time. Click and treat any movement towards touching the target.
2. Some dogs are not as well balanced, and you might need to start with the target low and gradually lift it over head, clicking and treating attempts to lift the front paws off the ground.
3. When the paws are coming off the ground with each attempt, then click and treat only the higher paw lifts until your dog is doing a complete Sit Pretty.
4. Put this behavior on cue, using a verbal or hand signal.
5. Fade out the target

Click Points

- Nose reaching for the target
- Any effort toward lifting paws of the ground
- Touching target with paws off the ground
- Sitting on back hips with paws off ground
- Completing the position repeatedly

Take a Bow

Steps

Dog standing in front of you, hold a treat to his nose in an underhand position. Move the food steadily toward your dog at a 45 degree angle, as if pushing it between his front legs. Aim to tip his nose down and back, encouraging him to dip his front legs onto his elbows. As soon as he does hinge backward and drop, even if only slightly, click and treat before he drops into a down.

Click Points

- Dip onto elbows
- Weight shifting backward
- Elbow on ground, rear-end up