



Loose Leash Walking & Greeting

Keep practising what you have learned in Week 1-5 this week.

Now it's time for your dog to learn to sit for greeting when you are going for a walk.

Exercise

- ❖ When walking your dog and someone comes by, have your dog sit.
- ❖ If someone wants to pet the dog, encourage your dog to sit and stay seated.
- ❖ Do not pull his leash, or yank your dog, instead calmly have him sit.
- ❖ It is okay to gently nudge his bum to go to the ground to remind him he has to listen to you.
- ❖ As he stays seated, calmly praise your dog.
- ❖ Use a treat if necessary to encourage him to sit.
- ❖ Your dog may only get up when you give the release.

Have a friend or family member plan to walk by if no one is around your area and have your dog sit. If your dog tries to jump on the person petting him, be calm and say "Let's go" and walk away so he is not being rewarded for the unwanted behaviour. You can also have the person petting him stop and walk away. Do not be upset if your dog jumps or doesn't stay seated, remain calm and encourage your dog to sit or simply continue on your walk.

Troubleshooting

Just as you practise sitting for greeting when you come home, the unwanted behaviour can not be rewarded by praise or petting your dog. The dog needs to be ignored by the other person if they try to jump up. You may have to walk away. Tell the person you come across you are training your dog and he **MUST** remain sitting in order for the person to pet him. Because you practise "Sitting for greeting" when you come home, slowly this becomes the norm - never jump for greeting.

Goal

To have your dog sit and not jump up when someone passes by when you practice Loose Leash Walking. He has to always sit when people want to pet him.

Practical application

As I stated before, it's not polite for your dog to jump up at people. They can get dirty from your dog; some people are scared of dogs, or even push them off balance. From now on don't let your dog jump up at people when you go for a walk.





Shake-A-Paw

Let's have a bit of fun! Now as I said in the video, you don't have to do this exercise, but can be kind of cool to show off. So consider this a Bonus class. Some dogs may never do this very well because they may have trouble "balancing the load". Many puppies do this naturally early on, so keep encouraging them when they do it!

Exercise

If your dog already uses his paw a lot when you reach down towards his paw, then start using the term "Shake" or "Shake paw". Clicker training is particularly effective for this training exercise as you can click with any movement of the paw off of the floor. But if your dog does not do this naturally, this is how you can teach him:

- ❖ Make your dog sit.
- ❖ Reach down to his paw and tap behind it, raise it a little.
- ❖ Click/mark the behaviour.
- ❖ Praise your dog and reward him with a treat.
- ❖ Repeat this step over and over and then start using the term "Shake paw", rewarding him each time.
- ❖ Try to get him to do it on his own.
- ❖ Hold your hand low, close to his paw and tell him to "Shake paw".
- ❖ Reward him for any effort lifting his paw off the ground.
- ❖ Slowly have him try to touch your hand with his paw.
- ❖ Mark this behaviour and use lots of praise and then release him.
- ❖ Gradually have him only rewarded as he gets higher and higher until he reaches the desired height of shaking his paw.

Troubleshooting

In some cases you may want to use a small raised platform, ledge, step stool, anything raised right in front of him. You could tap your fingers on the platform and have him place his paw on it - a bit playful. Use the clicker to mark the exact moment he raises his paw and reward him. Start using "Shake paw" with it and before you know it your dog learned a new command.

Goal

To have your dog raise his paw and tap your hand when you say "Shake Paw".

Practical application

This command doesn't really have a practical application; however it can just be really cute for your dog to perform this command. You can teach your dog "Other paw", "High five" and "Low five" in the same fashion.





Come With Sit

It will be helpful to have a helper for this exercise, especially when practising outdoors. If your yard is not fully fenced or you are practising where your dog could escape, please use a long leash (20 feet or so) for safety.

Exercise

- ❖ Have your helper hold the end of the leash.
- ❖ Have a treat ready.
- ❖ Make your dog sit and have your helper hold him.
- ❖ Tell him to "Wait".
- ❖ Now walk away from your dog, about 10-15 feet.
- ❖ Look at your dog and tell him to "Come".
- ❖ Your helper should hold the end of the leash, in case he tries to escape.
- ❖ As your dog comes to you, hold out your hand, to slow him down.
- ❖ Tell him to "Sit".
- ❖ Have him sit for a few seconds. Click/mark the behaviour.
- ❖ Praise your dog, reward him with a treat and then release him.

Troubleshooting

We want to avoid the "Dine and Dash" scenario. It basically means that your dog comes, grabs the treat out of your hand and runs away with the treat. We want some respect from your dog. So make him sit first before he gets a treat. Practise this on a regular base whenever you have some free time. Remember coming to you should always be a positive thing.

Goal

To have your dog come to you and sit for a few seconds.

Practical application

If you use the command "Come" only when playtime is over, or when you want to discipline your dog, coming to you becomes a negative thing. Coming to you should always be a positive thing; it may one day save its life. Now we are demanding some more respect from your dog by having him sit. This calms down the coming to you a bit if your dog is fairly active and tends to come but often runs right past you.





Final Exam

Congratulations! You made it to the end of this Beginner Training class.

Your dog has learned a lot of commands over the last few weeks. It's okay if it took you a little longer than you wanted. The trick is to set some time apart for you and your dog daily and spend some quality time one-on-one training.

The consistent training and the repetition of the commands over a 6 week period is what makes him learn it very well. If you skip days, or even weeks, you will find your dog often has trouble with commands he should have known from previous lessons. Whether you practise in a live classroom with other people and their dogs, you still have to practise at home.

Dog trainers can always tell who has been training their dog that week and who didn't... You can't blame your trainer; you will only be successful if you take out the time to actually DO the training.

Now sometimes dogs just aren't ready for classes yet. I often see people take very young puppies to class, because they want to train their puppy. But sometimes they are just not ready yet. Just like kids, you can't expect a toddler in diapers to perform as well as a grade 1 student. In that case you may just have to wait a few weeks.

The nice thing with this Training class is, you can start with a few basic commands like: Sit, Come and Loose Leash Walking and see how it goes.

Alright! Are you ready for a little test? I'll just call it your Final Exam.

Rehearse all the commands you have learned over the last few weeks with your dog. Then when you think you are ready, ask some family, friends, neighbours to come and check out how your dog is performing. This will be the real test. Is your dog truly ready? Have them stand aside, while you perform your commands.

When your dog performs all the commands successfully and your audience approves, you can print out your diploma and put your dogs' name on it.

Congratulations, your dog now has completed his Beginner Training Certificate!

I recommend taking a little break before moving on to the Advanced Training; but continue to use the commands on a daily basis.

I look forward to seeing you in the Advanced Training Classes!

- Berry van Loenen

