

WAG Beginner Part 1 (Level 1A) – Week 2

HOMEWORK

Practice each exercise at least 3 times during the week for 5-10 minutes

Impulse Control

- Continue to work on impulse control the same as you did in class last week and this week.
- REMINDER: your hand should only be closed when the dog is attempting to get the food without permission. Open your hand immediately as soon as the dog stops trying to get the food.
- If your dog is doing well, move your open hand a foot or two away from the dog and pause a few seconds before releasing the dog. If dog moves to get the food, close your hand and start over.
- Gradually increase the distance you move your hand away before releasing until you can take several steps away and the dog will wait for the release word. **Do not use a command yet.**
- If your dog is consistently waiting for the release word with a few steps away, make it harder:
 - wait longer before releasing the dog to the food or move further away (don't do both at once, work on only one at a time –distance or duration)
 - after moving away a few feet, lower your open hand to the ground before releasing

Wait

- Have dog sit. Give wait command and signal. Immediately reward with a treat out of the other hand. Repeat for about 10 seconds. Rewards should come so rapidly that dog has no desire to get up or go anywhere.
- Keep dog in position, but now add a step ways after the command/signal, then immediately step back to the dog and reward. This needs to be done quickly so the dog isn't tempted to get up. Repeat for about 10-15 seconds.
- Keep dog in position and continue as above, but now start trying to add a slight pause (1-2 seconds) between the step away and giving the reward.
- If at any time the dog gets up, just put him back in position and start over.

Practice Pull Turn

- Start with dog moving at your side or being recalled to you
- Turn away from the dog. Make sure you head is turned slightly to the side your dog is on. This is what tells him to come to that side.
- Dog should catch up to you (or turn with you if already at your side before the turn) and line up in the direction you're going (not curl around in front of you to face you)
- Use a treat in the inside hand to reward the dog at your side.
- Practice different degrees of turn (90 degrees, 180, or a complete circle)
- Remember to practice with the dog on both sides.

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Contact Position (2on2off)

- Use the clicker to shape your dog to put all 4 feet on the practice board as we did in class.
- Each time the dog gets on the board with all four feet, hold him in position by click/treating so rapidly that he doesn't have time to think about going anywhere. Place treats so that the dog steps he steps into a position with two front feet on the ground and two back on the board (referred to as 2on2off).
- When the dog is in the 2on2off position, hold him in position for several seconds by click/treating so rapidly that he doesn't have time to think about going anywhere.
- After he holds position for several seconds, give your release word and reward the dog for getting off. Then walk away a few steps, turn, re-approach the board, and repeat the exercise.