

HOMEWORK – WEEK FOUR

Skill	What to Do	Required for Next Week
Recall	Increase distractions to a level dog can still cope with. Use a long line if necessary to ensure compliance and safety. Practice in new places and with other dogs and people around. Keep playing Funder, but increase distance by running away after throwing food. Play other recall games (see Really Reliable Recalls handout). Practice calling dog away from less exciting food or toys.	Dog responds immediately and enthusiastically to name + recall cue from ten metres when mildly distracted, and can ignore other (known) dogs and inaccessible food decoys.
Loose Lead Walking	Work in more distracting places, new places, places where there is less room. Find distractions that your dog will want to investigate – okay and not okay - and practice circling towards/away from them and stopping near or beside them. Practice on a short lead (1 – 1.5m) as well as a long one. If possible, walk with other people and other calm or well behaved dogs.	Dog should be pulling much less and paying more attention to owner. Can ignore or accept being moved away from medium distractions with minimal resistance. Can accept being moved away from high level distractions reasonably easily.
Sits and Downs	Continue practice, reduce hand signal so that dog is responding mainly to verbal cue. Be sure to release dog with okay and not to let him get up before then.	Dog should be immediately sitting/ downing without hesitation with less of a hand signal, and will hold position for at least five seconds until released with “okay” signal.
Plank	Encourage dog to walk across plank without stepping off before the end, luring if need be. Try to let the dog do it without being held. Slow down if his feet are coming off the plank – the faster they go, the more unbalanced they become.	Dog should be walking or trotting across plank without stepping off and without physical handling.
Tunnel	Practice getting dog to go through a short “tunnel” with you at the start, rather than at the end. Throw a toy or treat through for him to follow. When he goes in after it, move to the end to reward him. Only add a cue if he is going through without hesitation. If he is confident, run to the end and keep running, so he has to chase you for his reward – a toy will make this more exciting.	Dog will go through short tunnel when called through from far end, or can be sent through after toy or treat. Dog immediately returns to handler.
Send	Stand 0.5m away from the box and ask your dog to get into it from there. Don’t move your feet or step forward when you send, but you can use an arm or hand signal as well as your verbal cue. When your dog gets into the box, wait a couple of seconds, then step forward, release him with “okay”, and reward him in his box. Then you can drop another treat outside the box for him to go after, so that you can repeat the exercise. If he jumps out before you release him, move closer and try again. Don’t use “stay” to keep him in the box – this is a send, not a stay. If your dog can manage a couple of seconds before being released, start sending from different angles. Gradually build up the length of time your dog waits in the box before being released to 5 seconds. Don’t call your dog back to you, always go to him, release him, and reward in the box to reinforce that as the place to be.	Dog can be sent 0.5m to get into box and will stay there for up to 5 seconds until released.
Nose Touch	Keep playing with nose touch. Move your hand away slowly a very short distance so he has to follow it for a step or two to reach it, but keep this really easy and simple – some dogs will think the movement means, “leave me alone”.	Dog can confidently nose touch either hand held in different positions and at different angles.

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Stay	<p>Start adding some distance to your stay. Give your dog the “stay” cue, take one small step away and then step straight back. Wait a couple of seconds, and then release and reward in the box. Step away in different directions. Go straight back, wait two seconds, then release and reward in the box. If your dog is okay with this, step away, wait one second, step back, wait two seconds, release and reward. Build up the time you are away slowly, one second at a time, moving in different directions, just one step for now. When your dog can manage five seconds, take two steps away, and repeat the process. If your dog jumps out of the box, or seems concerned, shorten the distance, or the time, or both, back to the point where he is comfortable, and work up more slowly.</p>	<p>Dog will stay in box for 5 seconds with handler moving away 1 metre.</p>
Handling	<p>Continue with all-over gentle handling, especially feet. Start getting your dog used to a tooth check – put your hand over his muzzle, with your palm down and fingers pointing towards his nose. Then use your thumb and first finger to gently lift his lips slightly. You may need to build up to this. Never squeeze his lips against his teeth, put your hand or fingers over his nostrils, or use your hands to open his jaws – he will not thank you for any of that! Practice quick touches on the back of your dog’s neck and collar, and reward after each one. Practice leading your dog by the collar without dragging.</p>	<p>Dogs should allow lips to be briefly lifted, and is calm when collar is quickly taken. Can be led by collar without resistance.</p>