

Homework – Week 5

Skill	What to Do	Goal for Next Week
Recall	As for last week.	Dog can be called away from distractions, and can ignore other dogs.
Loose Lead Walking	As for last week.	Dog is relaxed on a leash walk and responds readily to changes of direction and pace.
Perch	Keep working on getting your dog to take steps around the perch with his back feet. When you have a few confident steps, work on getting the dog to circle right round the perch with his back feet, keeping his front feet on the perch at all times. Work on both directions equally.	Dog is taking definite steps with his back feet, or completing a full circle around the perch.
Zen Bowl	Keep building the amount of time your dog can maintain eye contact for, adding a second or two at a time. Reduce the time immediately if he looks away. Move the bowl further away. Add the recall in to the process – remember to reward the recall straight away and not ask for eye contact or any other task before rewarding for it. The goal is to have your dog race off to the bowl and then race straight back to you for a second helping. Be sure to have treats in your hand to give him so there is no delay in rewarding him once he gets back to you.	Dog is maintaining eye contact for five or more seconds before being released, and is coming straight back when recalled for a further reward.
Tunnel	Add a plank to the start of the tunnel. Make sure your dog still trots across in a controlled way and doesn't jump off the end because he is excited about the tunnel. When doing a sequence of obstacles, it is important to focus on the thing you are doing at the time, and not get distracted from correct performance by whatever is next.	Dog is running through tunnel confidently with owner beside him, on either side.
Ground Poles	Work towards a well balanced extended trot over poles. Your dog should be stepping into the centre of the space between the poles – you may need to adjust the distance between poles to help him. For small dogs, make sure the poles are low enough that he can trot over them easily and naturally.	Dog can trot over four to six ground poles with balance and extension.
Send	Continue to build up the distance you can send your dog to his mat, and the length of time he will wait for you to come and reward him. Make sure you always go to him to reward him on the mat – don't encourage him to step off the mat or come to you.	Dog can be sent 4-5m to his mat and will wait there for 10-15 seconds.
Stay	Build the distance and duration of your sit stay and down stay on the mat. Once your dog is confident about sit and down walkarounds, use them to finish your stay. Make sure you can walk around your dog in both directions. If you have any problem with a walkaround, don't add it to your stay – you don't want to spoil a good stay by asking too much of your dog at the end.	Dog can do a 30 second sit and down stay at 4 metres on his mat, with a walkaround finish for both.
Lead Hand Training	Keep building up the number of steps you can do with your dog following your leading hand. If your dog does a straight line well, start working him around a short curve. Move in a wide curve, as if you were going to walk in a big circle, but only take two or three steps. Keep your outer hand stretched out for him to follow. It is much harder for him to follow your hand around a curve because he has to work harder to keep up, so slow down. It is important not to leave him behind and so teach him to lag behind instead of walking beside you – his shoulder must still be level with your leg throughout. Finish with a nose touch. Learning to follow your hand around a curve is the first step towards directing your dog successfully in several dog sports, including Agility, Obedience, and Rally-O. Eventually it will signal your dog to turn, change direction, come closer or move away, take a particular obstacle, take up a particular position etc.	Dog can take up to five steps following the leading hand without food in it, in a straight line or in a short curve, maintaining shoulder to leg position, with a nose touch at the end.
Cone Work	Continue to reduce your luring down to a brief but clear hand signal. If your dog is really confident, try increasing the distance between yourself and the cone, so he is being sent a short distance to circle it. Aim for speed and enthusiasm.	Dog circles cone in both directions with a hand signal rather than a lure.