

# LOVE 2 PLAY

## Dog Training

### Beginner Recreational Agility Lesson 2

#### **BASIC OBEDIENCE**

Continue to work on “sits” and “downs” on various surfaces. Remember that your dog should remain in place until you release it AND remember that distractions make it harder for the dog...build on success.

Make sure you can walk around your dog when it is in a sit or a down.

Challenge: Can you stand 3 steps behind the dog, walk up to it, stop, and then move on (without releasing it)?

#### **REAR END AWARENESS**

Continue practicing walking through a ladder (or over pvc poles on the ground)

Continue teaching your dog to back up stairs..

#### **JUMPING**

Now that you've practiced running beside your dog as it takes one jump, can you do this:

1. Send your dog over the jump to a target plate or toy. Make sure to tell the dog to 'get it' once it lands (giving it permission to break from the job and hand and get the treat or the toy)
2. Call the dog over the jump to you (YOU are facing the same direction as the dog, look over your shoulder at your dog). Use your release word and 'jump'. Do not use 'come'.

Can you find 2 jumps in a row for your dog to take (remember low is best right now)?

Work the same progression with 2 jumps as you did with one:

1. Walk beside
2. Run beside
3. Send
4. Call

Remember to ALWAYS reward your dog EVERY time it takes the jump at this point. We want a strong history of reinforcement for jumping.

#### **WEAVE POLES**

Lure your dog through the weave poles with food on a chopstick. Remember to hold the dog back, pulling builds drive and drive in the weaves is good. Work with your dog on your left and right. DO NOT use your hand...we want YOU out of the picture!

#### **TABLE**

Use a piece of plywood or a small 'table' on the ground (I used the top of an old patio table) for practicing the table at home.

1. Ask the dog to get on the table and then cue it to sit or lie down and reward heavily.
2. Repeat this 3 or 4 times then just ask the dog to get on the table and wait.

3. If the dog sits or lies down, reward heavily.

4. If the dog does not sit or lie down, repeat step one several more times.

We did this in class, but a new table is a 'different behaviour' for your dog so you will need to start at the beginning again. Work this progression on as many different 'tables' as you can find.

## **TEETER MOVEMENT**

What can you find that moves JUST a little bit that your dog can stand on?

- Buja board?
- Half fit ball (exercise ball)
- Tippy Board?
- Plank nailed to a log?

Once again: PLEASE DO NOT take your dog to a playground and have them go over the teeter there.....the teeter is the ONE obstacle where if a dog scares itself, it can take months to get it near it again!

## **CHUTE preparation**

Continue to find things the dog can go under and through.....

Continue to help your dog push through a sheet over a chair.

## **CONTACTS (we will talk about this next week but read this through now)**

Your dog must touch the yellow contact on the bottom of the dogwalk and the AFrame and the yellow contact on the beginning and end of the teeter. As dogs grow more confident and run faster with more arousal, they OFTEN will jump off the obstacle before hitting the contact. This is unsafe. I teach dogs to stop at the bottom—their front feet on the ground and their back feet on the contact (this is called "2 on, 2 off"). This is a CLEAR cue (physical difference between the ground and the contact surface) for the dog of where to stop and I teach the dog that it must remain in this position until released.

This is easy to work on at home and then can be transferred to the equipment. All you need is 3 or 4 steps (preferably there should be a different surface on the stairs and the ground, if not you can always put a mat on the ground at the bottom). Place a target plate with food on it on the ground far enough out from the bottom stair so that the dog will have to place its front feet on the ground to get it....but not so far out that it moves it moves its back feet to the ground as well (you want them on the bottom stair). With the dog on leash, have it go up the stairs (or better, hop it up from the side) and then hold the collar so it cannot descend. Let go of the dog, say your word for 'touch the contact zone'. Wait a moment after the dog has eaten the treat and then release it using your release word. DON'T let it eat the treat and then move on its own.

Remember: your contact word means 'go and find that place'. It does not mean 'stop now' so we want to use it while the dog is in motion.

## **OUT and ABOUT**

Continue to explore the world with an eye to what new and different things can your dog safely explore. DON'T PUSH your dog to do anything that it is afraid of, but instead build on its confidence.....