

BERWICK OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB - BEGINNER'S 101

Pack Leader - Feed your dog from his own bowl when calm. Dog has its own bed. Keeping your dog at ground level. Ensure that the family treats the dog with respect and does not play roughly with the dog. Never leave kids with dogs unsupervised.

Bond - Play games. Tug, Find it, Hide and seek. Every interaction you have with your dog may either strengthen or weaken your bond.

Three voice tones - Praise - light and happy. Correction - short, sharp growly. Command - mid tone, authoritative, once. Use something like "no" or "try again" in command voice if the wrong behaviour is offered in response to a command.



Training - Lure to get behaviour then add command. When dog knows command, phase out lure. Use a hand signal when appropriate.

Marking - Use a word eg "yes" to let the dog know the exact moment that he is doing the desired behaviour.

Training consistency - If a behaviour is wrong it is always wrong.

Training sessions - Short, 2 or 3 minutes. Should be fun. Praise small wins. Frustrated? Stop. End with an easy exercise and praise.

Timing - Praise - Mark and reward while in the act or within 3 seconds. Correction - while in the act only.



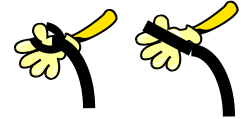
Sit in front - No command. Lure. Show dog treat, draw treat towards your body raise treat slightly back over dogs head. Mark and praise when dogs backside touches the ground. When you know your dog is going to sit add the "sit" command while dogs backside is moving towards the ground. After several (10) successful lured sits, with command, try command only.

Release Word - To let your dog know when they can move from a commanded position or is no longer 'working'.

Health check - Examine dog all over. Paws, bumps, discharges smell, energy. Call vet if in doubt.

Talk to your dog - Let your dog know if he is doing good or bad.

Safe lead handling - Thumb or fingers through loop, hand closed. Secure but easy to release.



Free walking - Tight lead stop, shake lead, whistle, call name, or back up or change direction. Praise eye contact, lure and treat at left side. Loose lead walk, praise when walking loose. Start indoors, then in yard, then in street.

Treats - Kibble at home, favourite at school, small, moist, easy to swallow. Lure and reward with toy if not food driven.



Watch Me or Look - Dog sitting in front. Treat or toy in hand at dogs nose. Trace a line from dogs nose to yours. When eye contact is made command watch me or look and praise. Repeat 2 or 3 times. Progress to holding treat behind your back, and commanding. "look" or "watch me". Praise and treat when eye contact is made.



Walking recall - Get your dog's attention, lure towards you, use lead if necessary. When dog is moving towards you command "come", walk backwards, reel in lead. When immediately in front, touch collar praise treat release. After 2 or 3 of these, progress to "come" command without lure, or dogs name then "come" if distracted. When coming reliably, command "sit" when in front, touch collar, praise treat release.

Accept a pat - When your dog is meeting a person for the first time they may be wary or suspicious. If the person is agreeable, ask them to let your dog approach them and sniff. Pat on chest or under chin, not on top of head. Foundation for Stand For Examination.



Socialisation - Meeting an unfamiliar dog. Both on lead, brief initial meeting (3 seconds). Lighten mood with tone of voice. Praise good behaviour. Separate on bad behaviour.

Close walking - Treats in the left hand. Lure dog to left side with loop motion or right about turn. Mark when close to left leg. Verbal praise, 2 or 3 steps, pause, treat, pat. Repeat when treat has been swallowed. When luring reliably add command "heel". When walking at heel for a 3 or more steps reliably, halt and lure/ command to sit at heel. Mark, and praise when successful.

Body language - Watch your dog and the dog that he is meeting. Tail - mid height,
relaxed wag = **happy**
High tail, fast wag = **excited**,
may not be good.
Tucked under body = **frightened**.
Refer to hand out for more.



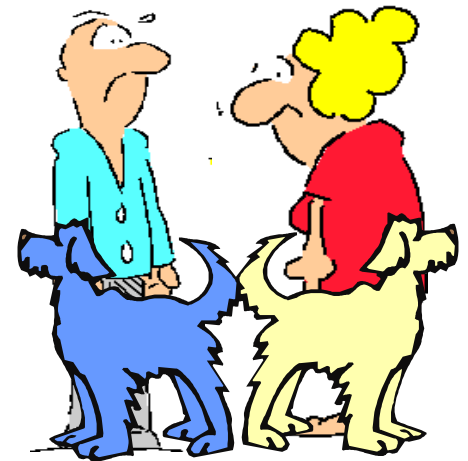
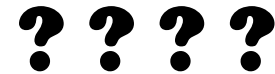
Off lead areas - Non school times only. **CAUTION**. Do not let your dog enter if there are several dogs already playing. If there are 1 or 2 dogs in the ring, ask the handlers to put their dogs on lead and use the skills above to meet. Don't worry if your dog does not play with other dogs. How your dog feels about you is more important than how he feels about other dogs.

Stay - 3 dimensions, 3 Ds
Distractions, Duration, Distance,
(within reach). Start with all dimensions as small as possible. 10 unbroken stays at a level before increasing 1 dimension. If dog is breaking you are asking for too much. Reduce dimensions and get some wins.

Turns - Lure to heel, get down to dogs level and encourage dog to move with you as you turn right. Mark and praise when dog changes direction. Lure dog back to behind your leg when turning left.



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Prepared by the OSC on behalf of the BODC.
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