OBEDIENCE TRAIN THE TRAINER

4-H Dog Project

“CONSISTENT TRAINING LEADS TO A CONSISTENT DOG!”

HEEL FREE

Materials Needed
- Light leash
- 30# test fish line or shark line
- Soft, chewy treats
- Lots of enthusiasm!

Training Notes
1. *Off leash heeling should never be introduced until your dog is nearly 100% perfect with on leash heeling!* It can be very discouraging for you and your dog if you try to start it too early when your dog does not understand the heeling concept. You will only amplify heeling problems if you do not fix them on leash first!

2. As your dog is perfecting the on leash heeling, gradually start using a lighter leash so the transition of going off leash is easier.

3. If your dog needs guidance during the transition of going off leash, fish line or a shark line can be beneficial. Always be sure to loop the end over a dowel or dumbbell to protect your hands. Never use these lines for correcting, they are for guidance only. Put your leash back on the dog whenever you need to correct.

4. Train in short spurts. Keep everything positive and exciting. Training should only consist of 5-10 minutes per off leash session. *Do not tire them out on off leash heeling-this leads to lagging.*

5. If your dog makes a mistake, put it back on leash and do three corrections in a row-regardless if they need one or not. (They don't need to be hard corrections, just reminders). Remember consistency is everything!

6. If you are upset or in a bad mood at the time you train. DO NOT TRAIN YOUR DOG! Wait until you feel better and can show excitement to your dog. Your emotions lead straight down to your dog. Training should be FUN!

DROP ON RECALL

Materials Needed
- 6 foot leash
- Dog efficient with Novice recall
- Soft, chewy treats
- Lots of enthusiasm!
Training Notes

1. Once your dog understands the “down” command in beginners, the random drops can be started at any time. The random drop consists of playing with your dog-really good and hard on leash-then using a hand and voice command to “down!” If your dog does not drop, you have the leash to correct it down in a quick manner. This should be done in fun with lots of praise. As your dog starts doing really well with it, you can start alternating hand or voice commands. When it responds immediately every time you say down, you can start to throw a toy to fetch and drop your dog on the send out to retrieve. This teaches control.

2. Never start incorporating the drop during a recall until the random drops are perfect.

3. When practicing drop on recalls, do one drop on recall followed by 3 straight novice recalls. You don't want to have your dog start anticipating the drops!

4. When your dog is performing the random drops immediately all of the time, you can begin the drop on recall by calling your dog to you, then dropping it using your hand and voice right in front of you. This way you can touch your dog and get it down if it does not drop immediately.

5. Once your dog is dropping at your feet, you can slowly work the drop out further and further. Once he is dropping in the middle, you can start weaning your hand or voice signal out. You can only use either hand or voice, not both, when showing. If you decide to use a hand signal, remember you cannot say ANYTHING! (i.e.-dog's name to get attention).

6. You can practice the random drops all of the time however do not over practice the entire drop on recall unless you are doing MANY straight recalls!

RETRIEVE FROM HAND

Materials Needed

- Leash
- Dumbbell-properly fitting with square ends painted white
- Soft, chewy treats
- Lots of enthusiasm!

Training Notes

1. The retrieve is one of the hardest things to teach your dog. Once you decide you are going to start it, you need to be sure and follow through with your training to ensure a positive outcome!

2. Be sure you take this one step at a time and do not jump ahead. If you skip something, it will make training the retrieve even harder down the road and take more time.

3. To start, you need to teach your dog to hold the dumbbell. Have your dog sit in heel position with its leash on. Have the leash held over the back of the neck. Hold the dumbbell with your right hand and leash in your left hand. Open the dog’s mouth and put dumbbell inside saying “fetch” at the same time. Once the dumbbell is in the mouth, quickly tighten up on the leash with your left hand and hold the bottom of the jaw with
your right hand and say “hold”. Do this for a brief second and then say “give”. Take the dumbbell out of your dog’s mouth and praise like crazy! Keep repeating this over and over. Each time have your dog hold it a little longer until it can hold it for at least 5 minutes. You can also gradually take your right hand away and loosen the leash. Say “hold” as you do that. If he drops it, quickly put it back in his mouth and say “hold”. Timing is very important!

4. Once your dog is holding the dumbbell, we need to teach him to reach for it. By this time usually your dog understands the dumbbell will be going in his mouth and he is more likely to open his mouth once you push the dumbbell against his teeth or approach to manually open his mouth. However, he usually will not voluntarily reach to get it. This will be the hardest thing you will ever have to teach your dog and will require being “cool” and patient with your dog. A correction of many different variances may be used to get him to retrieve. Practice one type of correction and stay with it-do not change it in the middle unless an instructor tells you differently.

5. When practicing the retrieve from hand, you need to do MANY repetitions during one training session. Usually if you do 5 sets of 10 quick holds and reaches each day, your dog will quickly learn. Remember consistency and repetitions lead to a consistent, happy dog!

6. Give soft treats whenever you feel he deserves one. Do not over feed on treats. Use them as rewards for really good deeds.

RETRIEVE ON FLAT AND OVER HIGH JUMP

Materials Needed

- 6 foot leash
- Dumbbell-properly fitting with square ends painted white
- High Jump
- Soft, chewy treats
- Lots of enthusiasm!

Training Notes

1. You can continue the retrieve once your dog has mastered the retrieve from hand.

2. After your dog is reaching for the dumbbell, you need to teach him to walk with it in his mouth. Have patience. Some dogs cannot walk and chew gum at the same time! To begin, have your dog on leash and holding the dumbbell. You stand in front of him. Tighten the leash and hold the bottom of his jaw and say “come”. Take only a small step back and help him move out of his position. Gradually during practice, take your right hand away, then start taking more steps backwards. Once that is going well, you can try to start heeling with him. Make all of the heeling fun with him holding the dumbbell. Remember if you correct him with the leash for heeling, it will probably cause him to drop the dumbbell. Be careful with it.

3. Aside from the dumbbell, you need to introduce your dog to the high jump. Have it set very low-usually 8 inches unless your dog is tiny. First you jump over with him and say the word “hup!” Praise every time he jumps it. Once he’s doing that, start guiding the leash over the jump, but you walk past it, not over it. After that, you can start doing recalls on leash over the jump and gradually start them off leash. As your dog continues to advance, you can start building the jump at two-inch increments per day until you reach its full height.
4. After your dog is comfortable with the high jump and can heel and do recalls holding the dumbbell, you can now have him do recalls over the high jump holding the dumbbell. You introduce this the same way as stated in #3 other than he will be holding the dumbbell.

5. To teach the retrieve on flat, your dog must be reaching for the dumbbell and walking with it. Gradually start having the dog reach in different positions i.e. up high, down low. Soon you put it on the ground and your hand is away from the dumbbell, make it fun and toss the dumbbell no more than a foot or two and say “fetch”. Praise like crazy when he picks it up. Keep everything light and fun-except on the occasion your dog chooses to ignore you your retrieve correction needs to be applied. After your dog is successful with fun retrieves, make them longer and have him start waiting until you tell him fetch. *Only say “fetch” once.*

6. Always use the word “fetch” or something similar for the retrieve on flat.

7. To teach the retrieve over high, set the jump low, toss and send your dog to “hup” at the same time. Make him go over the jump, he'll see the dumbbell-say “fetch” if necessary the first time and then stand right on the other side of the jump, pat the top of the board and say “hup back!” After a few of those, you can start having him wait and do good retrieves. Slowly start building up the jump in height after the concept is mastered.

8. Proof your dog’s retrieve by throwing the dumbbell in weird places, off on the side of the jumps and landing in odd positions.

9. Use the command “hup” or something similar for the retrieve over high. Differentiate the two exercises (retrieve on flat and over high) with the commands. You do not need to say “fetch” on the retrieve over high.

**BROAD JUMP**

**Materials Needed**
- 6 foot leash
- Jump stick
- Broad Jump-painted white (helps in grass!)
- Soft, chewy treats
- Lots of enthusiasm!

**Training Notes**
1. Begin by teaching the jump stick. Start with walking over it, then heeling and jumping and finally with a recall with the jump stick. This can be practiced in the house, outside- anywhere during all times of the year! Any dog can learn stick jumping after it has completed the beginner class. It’s fun, good exercise and helps dramatically with the broad jump!

2. After the dog has learned stick jumping, the broad jump can be introduced. Start with only one or two boards, heel around and each time you approach the boards, say “hup” in a fun, light voice. Increase the number of boards as the dog does well. Carry the jump stick by your side and use that while jumping the boards. The dog will never know when you will use the stick, so it prevents walking the broad. *Be sure and heel with a very fast pace!*
3. Once your dog jumps the broad during heeling, you can start doing recalls over the jump. Make it fun and fast. Speed is a key factor in this jump.

4. To finish the broad jump training, you can stand by the side of the jump with your jump stick in your right hand hidden next to your leg. You practice the same type of recall you taught your dog with the jump stick, using your jump stick to occasionally keep your dog jumping. When he's continually doing a great job jumping, slowly increase the length of the jump until he's at his full length.

**DIRECTED RETRIEVE**

**Materials Needed**
- Dog with excellent retrieving skills with the dumbbell
- 3 cotton white gloves
- Soft, chewy treats
- Lots of enthusiasm!

**Training Notes**
1. You need to learn proper footwork with the pivots. Practice this separately without the dog. Remember handlers usually are the ones that cause the dog to fail, not vice versa!

2. Have fun with the gloves. However, discourage the dog from “killing” them.

3. Practice #1 and #3 consistently in the beginning. Do not send your dog to #2 until it masters the other two.

4. Use whatever commands your are comfortable with. I name the gloves and use the commands “one”, “two”, and “three”. They are smart and can correct themselves at a show if they missed your signal, but heard the word!

5. Practice consistently!

6. Wash your gloves to keep them clean. When you dry them, make them inside out and dry in a ball. This keeps them fluffy and easy to see when across the ring.

7. The directed retrieve does not consist of many corrections. When your dog makes a mistake, start over and go closer to the gloves so you are not working at a far distance. Your dog is in college now and deserves your respect!

**DIRECTED JUMPING**

**Materials Needed**
- Bar and High Jump with various settings
- Fun toy or something your dog absolutely loves! (Crate, Frisbee, treats)
- Soft, chewy treats
- Lots of enthusiasm!

**Training Notes**
1. Work jumps and go-backs separately in the beginning until your dog understands both of them.
2. Train in repetitions. Do at least three go-backs at a time.

3. Use a target word to help with the go-backs.

4. Jump low while training in the beginning. Your dog can already do the height. You need to focus on jumping and direction.

5. Use whatever jump command you like, but differentiate between the two. Your dog can learn many words and it helps for this exercise. I use the commands “bar” and “high”.

6. Keep a journal with all of your utility training to help solve problems and use on your next dog!

**SIGNAL EXERCISE**

**Materials Needed**
- Leash
- Soft, chewy treats
- Lots of enthusiasm!

**Training Notes**
1. Start signals close and work for distance.

2. Practice signals in a mirror so you know what your dog is seeing.

3. Do signals at the side of your body; not in front incase your close blend in with your hand signals.

4. Use authoritative signals. They need to be sharp.

5. Do not be too brave to put your dog back on leash to correct it. Always take a step back to help your dog. *No dog is too good for refreshers.*

6. Alternate signals so the dog will not anticipate.

7. Wait a few seconds between signals to help avoid anticipation.

**MOVING STAND**

**Materials Needed**
- Dog who knows stand for exam
- Soft, chewy treats
- Lots of enthusiasm!

**Training Notes**
1. Do not practice too often. This is one of the leading exercises of anticipation.

2. When practicing, vary training so you do not always do a forward-stand your dog. Heel around, do about turns and then stand your dog. You can say, “stand your dog” constantly while heeling to get your dog used to hearing it and not responding to it.
3. Use a different command than “stand” since that is what the judge uses. I use the command “wait”.

4. To obtain a quick return, start close on leash and make it fun. Gradually work for distance. Always use a hand a voice command.

**SCENT DISCRIMINATION**

**Materials Needed**
- Full set of leather and metal articles
- 3 x 3 piece of carpet or peg board (depends on indoor or outdoor dog)
- 30# fish line or thin elastic
- Soft, chewy treats that a dog couldn’t refuse-usually some table scrap
- Lots of enthusiasm!

**Preface**
1. Your article set consists of 5 leather and 5 metal articles numbered 1-5 respectively. You have a spare #6 of each so that you can show in two trials in one day and substitute the #6 for the first number you used.
2. Practice articles in the beginning 2-4 weeks twice daily for at least 15 minutes each session. Give dog two days off each week of training (so you are training 5 out of the 7 days).
3. Rotate articles daily so you use a different number to scent every day. For example, use #1 Monday, #2 Tuesday, etc.
4. Touch all articles each night after last training session to teach for “hot scenting.” Hot scenting is when the dog finds your most fresh scent and makes showing easier since you do not need to have numerous sets of articles.
5. Most people do not wash the articles. It is not recommended because it could ruin them.
6. After the dog NEVER makes a mistake, with the articles, gradually slow down training to once every other day for a week, then twice weekly. You can do more if you want, but do not stop. Consistent training lead to a consistent dog!
7. DO NOT quit training once you start since it could be confusing for the dog and you will never accomplish the task. Once he understands it, you can slow down, but not before.
8. DO NOT start training articles until you can commit at least 2 weeks of very consistent training!
9. Make a training mat that will have 10 spots to tie articles down to on your 3 x 3 carpet or pegboard. Cut slats into carpet and loop fish line through them.
10. Give treats every time the correct article is returned during the first 2-4 weeks.
11. Articles usually require no corrections. If there is a need, it shouldn’t be too forceful. The mat eliminates the excess corrections since they correct themselves.

**Training**
1. Start with only the leather set. Tie one down on the mat and throw other article out like the retrieve on flat. Tell the dog to “fetch-find it”. If the dog picks up the wrong one, DO NOT say anything! It’s a self-correction since it’s tied down and won’t come up. You may have to tell them to “fetch-find it” again if they shut down due to the confusion.
2. Once the dog figures out to start testing all of the articles on the mat (i.e. the one tied down and the loose one) without any additional commands, start to turn around before sending the dog to the articles. To do that, begin with your back facing the articles, scent the article (but not over-scenting), give flat palm open to dog to sniff, then pivot 180 degrees to left of right saying “heel”. Once dog sits, tell it “fetch-find it.”
3. Once the dog is picking up the right leather article all of the time; add one more leather article tied down. After that goes well, add one more at a time until five leather are tied down.
4. Once all the leather articles are tied, introduce the metal articles. First let the dog carry a metal one and fetch it like a dumbbell. Then, add one metal article to the mat tied down along with the other 5 leather ones already there. Start using the leather and metal ones for scenting. Use leather first to scent and find, then use the metal to scent in find. Alternating each time. I use the leather first because it holds the scent better and is easier to begin with. Metal is more difficult.

5. Add more metal articles, one at a time, to mat tied down when dog doesn't make any mistakes. Once all 5 leather and all 4 metal are tied and the dog is not grabbing any articles, start to untie one leather article.

6. When dog is still not making any mistakes, untie a metal article. Slowly untie each article, alternating leather and metal, as the dog progresses until they are all untied sitting on the mat.

7. When all articles are loose, start gradually moving them off mat and onto other surface (i.e. grass, cement, or floor in house). To do this, have a few on mat and a few off the edge on new surface. Keep merging them until they are all off of the mat.

8. Once off the mat and doing fine, practice articles in all different weather conditions and on different surfaces. It's okay to practice out in the cold snow and ice!

9. If the dog ever makes a mistake once the articles are all loose, TIE THEM BACK DOWN AND START OVER using the mat. If you do not, it will take so much longer to teach. It's very quick to get them off again.

10. If just an occasional article is brought back incorrectly, correct the dog at the pile of articles and do not let it bring the articles all the way back to you. Go and knock it out of his mouth, point out the correct article and once the dog picks it up, bring the dog back to the beginning send area and praise. Then tie them down again on mat and practice a couple of times that way. Put the one he retrieved incorrectly back into the pile even though he and you touched it. It's a minor touch and will not need to be separated.

11. You can change the command to “find it” once the dog understands it needs to go out and get it. This varies in dogs, but usually happens early in the training process.

12. Be sure you do not praise the dog all of the time (i.e. when it immediately picks up the right one). Vary times of praise so the dog does not rely on it. Be sure to have quiet ones where you do not praise until after the finish.

13. If dog stops working and just stares at you, DO NOT say a second command. Go up to the dog and in a mean tone of voice, point at the article and tell them to “find it!” If it continues, you may need to use your retrieve correction from open to stop the behavior before it becomes a problem. Praise heavily after every correction!

Good Luck!