

It's A Dog's World™

K - 9 A C A D E M Y

3890 Walnut Ave. Chino, Ca. 91710 • Local 909-548-3150 • Toll Free 866-324-DOGS • Fax 909-548-3154
www.ItsADogsWorld.biz

GROUP CLASS: Week 5

The goal for this lesson is to work on all the commands that we have learned thus far with distractions. You will also learn how to introduce your dog to working at a distance on a 30-foot long line.

DISTRACTIONS

Now you are ready to start working with your dog on distractions. Make sure that your dog will work for you perfectly in the backyard. Then, go to the front yard. You may want to choose a time where very little is going on in the neighborhood, like 8 o' clock at night. Once your dog is doing well in the front yard, work with him/ her out front at a busy time for your neighborhood, like Saturday morning. Then start working with your dog at a park, and so on. Try to work with your dog at various locations to prevent your dog from thinking that his or her obedience is location specific.

At this point, you will also want to start adding in distractions. Start with low intensity distractions such as clapping, and then move to bending down and tapping the ground, throwing keys, balls, etc. Ask other family or household members to act as distractions by having them walk around your dog while using the Sit-Stay or Down-Stay command. Remember to praise your dog immediately upon successful resistance of your distractions. Be creative!

LONG LINE

The purpose of the long line is to prepare you and the dog for off leash obedience or distance work. To start, you should have a 30' cotton web training lead. You may find it difficult to use at first. But, be patient! With practice, the long line gets easier and easier to use.

LET'S GO/HEEL: With your dog sitting on your left (the traditional leash walking position), take the long line and put it **behind** your back and up and over your **right** shoulder! With your dog sitting right next to you, make sure that you only have about a 2" belly of slack in your leash. Now comes the tricky part. Give the hand signal (patting your left leg) and the "Let's Go/Heel" verbal command, but DO NOT hold onto the Long Line with your left hand. As you walk, and if your dog stays beside you, give lots of verbal praise. If your dog tries to veer off to the side, or come around behind you to your right, you may grab the leash long enough to correct your dog back into the proper position, and then release your hand from the leash. As you turn in different directions, pat your leg and repeat the "Let's Go" command so your dog knows you are about to change direction. Try to correct your dog as little as possible. Remember, if your dog were off of the leash, you would not be able to correct your dog. Get your dog used to working off your body and voice more than corrections. However, if the dog needs a correction, don't hesitate to give one. The point is to first try to get your dog to respond to you. Change pace and direction often. Don't forget to stop periodically to make sure your dog does the Auto-Sit. If not, you may use the leash to reinforce the command.

COME: Try to get your dog distracted and back away about 10' on the long line. Do not try to do the full 30' until you get used to using the long line. As you get better, go further and further back on the long line until you are at 30'. Call your dog and do a pulley or a hand over hand type motion of reeling in the leash. You may have to back up as your dog comes into you, to adjust for your dog's speed. Correct the dog as necessary. Work with the come command around as many distractions as possible.

STAY: Place your dog into a sit-stay or down-stay. Walk back on the leash. If you move into the dog, you will need to move in with your hands on the long line. If your dog makes a mistake, say, "No" and move in to correct your dog. **Always** follow through with a correction. Once you are proficient in this area, start trying to move out of sight while your dog is in the stay command. You may want to put your dog in the stay command near a corner so that you may "hide" fairly close by. At first, hide for only a few seconds, then come out and reward your dog. Gradually increase the time that you are out of sight from your dog. Again, try to be creative. This work will help develop a dog with a solid stay command that will stay in a part of the house or yard while you are working on other things.

HOMEWORK

- Proof your dog's obedience with as many distractions as possible! Try to work your dog on the Lon Line in as many locations as possible; parks, schools, the beach, outside of a dog park, etc. Don't forget to have fun!
- Start separating hand-signals from the verbal cues. Give just the hand signal without saying the command. Reinforce your dog if he/she fails to complete the command within the 1 to 2 second time limit.
- Try doing a few "Doggy Sit-Ups". Give your dog the hand-signal for "*Sit*", then give the signal for "*Down*". Once your dog is laying down, give the signal for "*Sit*" again. Repeat this a couple of times. If your dog has difficulty sitting up from a down position, step into your dog until he/she backs up into a sit.