

# It's a dog's world™

## K - 9 A C A D E M Y

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### *IN KENNEL TRAINING*

#### **LESSON TWO**

The goal for this lesson is to work on all the commands that we have learned thus far with distractions and to learn how to start working with your dog on the 30 ' 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 or 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, then move to bending down and tapping the ground, throwing keys, balls, etc. 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.

**HEEL:** Take the long line and put it **behind** your back and up and over your **right** shoulder, not your left! Make sure that you have a 2" belly of slack in your leash. Now, heel with your dog. 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, then corrections. Change pace and direction often.

**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**

Your final goals for the sit stay is 5 minutes and down stay for 10 minutes. It is important that you don't ask your dog to do any longer than this period of time. If you want your dog to stay put longer than 10 minutes, you will want to use the “place” command. Proof your dog's obedience with as many distractions as possible! Don't forget to have fun!