

Practical Puppy Bootcamp

Weekly Break-Down



Here is a break-down of what is taught in each week of training.

Several more difficult commands (Leave It, Place, Look, Wait, etc) are taught in stages (Shaping Work). These are built on in each consecutive week of training, and take a minimum of 3-4 weeks for puppy to get to the “End Goal” behavior, although time, distance, and distractions can be added in future weeks to make the cue stronger and more impressive.

Everything listed in a previous week is continued to be practiced in consecutive weeks. When a puppy has only known a cue for one week it is still very new to them. They will need continued practice to help it become more solid, whether that happens with us or at home with you.

The first three weeks of training are focused on introducing cues to puppy and building on them with Shaping Work, as well as introducing potty and crate training and house manners.



Week One



- Sit
- Lay Down
- Walking on the Leash
- Place – Stage I (getting on the mat and sitting)
- Leave It – Stage I (not going for treat in hands)
- Look – Stage I (glancing at eyes)
- Touch (within 6 inches)
- Food Manners (sitting when fed)
- Kennel Up
- Recall Exercises
- Potty Training
- Sleeping through the night
- Grooming
- Socialization



Week Two



- Let's Go (loose leash skills)
- Greeting nicely (sitting not jumping)
- Door Manners (sitting & waiting for permission)
- Stay (up to 10 feet)
- Leave It – Stage II (leaving treat on ground)
- Place – Stage II (staying on mat for 3+ minutes)
- Look – Stage II (maintaining eye contact for 1 second)
- Get it and Come (recall game)
- What to chew and not to chew game



Week Three



- Recall Send Aways (5-in-1 cue game)
- Leash Skills - u-turns/fast/slow
- Leave It – Stage III (leaving chicken or cheese on floor while walking past)
- Look — Stage III (eye contact for 2 seconds)
- Stay — Stage II (in place for 15+ feet & around corners)
- Place — Stage III (laying in place for 5+ minutes)



Week Four



By the 4th week of training puppy has a solid start and understanding of what we want, but they can still have a hard time holding cues for a long time or focusing through distractions (other people, toys, sounds, etc.).

This when we begin introducing distractions and really increasing time/distance while cues are held. This helps puppy's training become stronger and more easily transferred from our home to yours.

Introducing Distractions Week! We focus on starting to add distractions now, where before we always tried to work in quiet places without other people, animals, random sounds, blowing leaves, etc. This builds current cues to be more reliable in outside places or when strangers are around, and not just when they're in your home with you. Along with this, we practice:

- Body Handling
- Recall Send Aways 15+ feet
- Out (drop it/let go)
- Stand
- Stay while I move in a circle around them
- Place for 8+ minutes

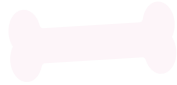


This is the end of the first month of Bootcamp!



The second month of Bootcamp focuses on building puppy's cues and socialization to be reliable in public or busy places. Cues like Wait, Leave It, and Place are built to hold over longer times. Cues and Recall are practiced in social places like parks, stores, and outdoor restaurants. The second month of Bootcamp is meant to help your puppy become more focused and confident in any situation.

Week Five



This week we will start having training sessions in busier public places, like a hardware store or an active park.

- We begin Random Rewards. (rewarding less often)
- 12+ minute Place
- Distracted Recall (calling them past treats and cheese on the floor)
- Stay for 65 feet



Week Six



- 1 minute Sit/Stay
- Down/Stay
- Wait while I run in a large circle around them
- Leave It while I “leave the room”
- Off (get down from there/four on the floor)

Week Seven



- Place from a distance
- Place in a busy location
- 1 minute Down/Stay
- More Distracted Recall (past treats/cheese/meat)
- Wait while I walk in a 30ft circle
- “Crazy” Walk (1 min. walk with random pace changes, U-turns, circles, & recalls)

Week Eight



- “Crazy” Walk practiced off-leash (if dog is responding well to off-leash work)
- Loose leash walks on a long lead
- 20+ minute Place
- All Cues in a busy location
- Sit/Stay in the center of a basketball court while I run around them (120x42 feet)

