



Adolescent Foundations

Session 5 Summary

What you learned today:

20 Yeses: Auto-focus, or voluntary attention, means your dog spontaneously looks at you without a command. Don't cue any behavior, just mark and reward each time you puppy looks at you.

Slow Treats Game: Start at your shoulder and lower your arm extremely slowly, but no more than 90 degrees, or to about 9 o'clock. Once you mark, reward swiftly so your dog doesn't jump for the treat. Your ultimate goal is no movement toward the treat.

Private Parts: Your dog should learn to accept handling of their entire body including the private areas. Not only may these areas require grooming, they are checked by the vet, either during temperature taking, or in case of infection. Ticks and fleas are often attracted to these areas as well. Anal glands may need expressing, and sanitary trims in some breeds can be necessary, and occasionally infections in these areas require treatment.

Make Recall Fun – Step 2 of “Come”: Once you've thrown treats on the ground, wait for your puppy to find them before saying their name and your recall word. Remember to mark their 1st movement toward you, treat at your legs with a mini “jackpot”, then ask for a sit and reward again.

Walking on Non-Standard Surfaces: Giving your puppy ample opportunities to move across a variety of surfaces as puppies, and later as adolescents, helps build their confidence and ability to adapt to their surroundings. If your puppy, or even an older dog, balks at walking across a surface, look at the surface he is walking on. Is it too hot, too cold, has sharp stones or vegetation that hurts? Does it move when she steps on it? Is it simply a surface they have never felt before?

Digging: See the handout from class.