



Basic Obedience

Sit*

1. While your puppy is standing, hold a treat tightly between your thumb and forefinger, just above her nose. As she raises her nose to take the treat, move the treat up and back toward her tail, keeping it just above her nose all the time.
2. As her nose and head move up and back, her rump should automatically sink toward the floor. If her forepaws come off the floor, the treat is too high. If she backs up, the treat is being held too far back or too low, or you are moving it back too fast.
3. If two people are available for training, one person may hold the treat as described above, while the other holds the puppy with one hand on the chest and the other on the rump. As the treat comes above the puppy's nose, gently press on her rump to guide it to the floor.
4. As soon as your puppy sits, feed her the treat and praise her warmly. Stroke her and continue the praise for as long as she remains in that position.
5. When your puppy sits down as soon as the treat is held above her nose, incorporate the command "sit". Say it firmly and clearly, just as her bottom sinks to the floor. Remember to feed the treat and give warm praise while she remains in this position.

Down*

1. When your puppy is in the sit position, use a treat to lure his nose down slowly to floor level. Hold on to the treat if he tries to take it from between your fingers, and keep it in position.
2. When his head is down, it is easier for him to lie down. With the leash attached to his collar, you may gently pull the leash toward the floor to lead him into a lying position. If he stands up instead of lying down, lure him back into the sit position (don't let him take the treat!), and try again.
3. As soon as your puppy lies down, feed the treat and praise him warmly. Continue to stroke and praise him as long as he remains in the down position.
4. When he lies down as soon as the tidbit is placed down between his paws, incorporate the command "down". Say it firmly and clearly, just as his elbows sink toward the floor. Feed the treat and praise your puppy warmly while he is in the down position as before.

Come

1. This command is best taught using two people. However, if no one else is available, you may use a long (at least 10-foot) leash instead.
2. Ask the second person to restrain your puppy and release him as soon as you call. You can get his attention by using the "watch me" command (without releasing him yet) and holding up a tasty treat.
3. Run backward a few paces, and then stop. Call his name and "come" several times in an exciting, encouraging way.
4. Be open in your body language by holding your arms outstretched. Continue to call him excitedly, and praise him enthusiastically, as he runs toward you.
5. When he gets to you, hold the treat under your chin, and keep his attention for a few moments by smiling and praising him warmly for coming to you. Hold the treat out to him with one hand, and hold his collar with the other while you feed him the treat. Keep hold of the collar until he has accepted the restraint, then praise him and allow him to wander away. Do not reach out to grab him. If you do, he will learn to avoid you.

Walking on a Leash without Pulling

1. This command is best practiced after a vigorous play session, so that your puppy's excess energy has been spent. Attach a leash to her collar, and then stand still. Encourage her to stand close to your left leg by luring her with a treat. Give praise and the treat when she gets there.
2. Hold the leash in either hand, and adjust so that it is loose. Keep it at a constant length and close to your body.
3. Say your puppy's name to attract her attention, give your command to have her walk on a loose leash (such as "heel" or "let's go"), then move forward.
4. If she gets ahead, the leash will tighten. When this happens, stop, holding the leash firmly. This will bring her to an abrupt halt.
5. Encourage your puppy back into position, and praise her. Wait until she is calmly waiting at your side before moving forward again. Any time you must reposition your puppy back to your side, lure her back into position rather than moving yourself, so that she will learn to maneuver in relation to you. Repeat until she is walking by your side without pulling on the leash.
6. Talk happily to your puppy whenever she is walking beside you, and stand still as you see the leash about to tighten. This takes patience and time at first, but don't get discouraged; improvement will be seen after a few sessions.