

Teaching Puppies Basics of Primary Cues

- This stage initially uses kibble as a lure and is quickly phased out after 2-3 repetitions.
- Practice in many locations before moving onto the next level.
- Puppies are ready to move to the next level when they are consistently performing behavior in various locations, with varied distractions, and have built up duration with behaviors.
- Be sure not to repeat cues when asking for a behavior or when praising the dog e.g. “Good Sit.”

Sit:

1. Start with the puppy standing in front of you while facing you. You should either sit or kneel when first teaching this cue.
2. Hold multiple pieces of kibble in front of the puppy’s nose. Slowly move your hand forward, toward the puppy, raising the hand slightly above the puppy’s head.
3. When the puppy is in the “Sit” position, click and then give multiple pieces of kibble in rapid succession followed by praise.
4. Release with “All Done” cue. Take 3-5 seconds to pet your puppy, give them a belly rub or quick moment of play before repeating steps 1-3.
5. When the puppy is able to perform “Sit” from a standing position, practice “Sit” from a “Down” position.

Down:

1. Start with the puppy either in “Heel” position or in front of you. You should either sit or kneel when first teaching this cue.
2. Ask the puppy to “Sit”. Grab 2-3 pieces of kibble in your hand, hold in front of the puppy’s nose and slowly move the hand in a straight line to the floor, between the puppy’s front legs.
3. When the puppy is in “Down” position, click and then give multiple pieces of kibble in rapid succession between the front legs, followed by praise.
4. Release with “All Done” cue. Take 3-5 seconds to pet your puppy, give them a belly rub or quick moment of play before repeating steps 1-3.
5. When the puppy is able to perform “Down” from “Sit,” practice “Down” from a standing position.

Recall/ Come:

Puppy should be familiar with Silky Leash and Tethering Activities for Young Puppies on the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal

1. Start with the puppy facing you while on leash.
2. Hold a treat in your right hand and the leash in the left. Extend the hand with the treat towards the puppy.
3. Apply gentle collar pressure while bringing the treat hand toward your chest.
4. Once your puppy releases the collar pressure and approaches, give the treat to the puppy
5. Using a second treat, follow the above guidelines to lure the puppy into a “Sit”(unless already on verbal/visual cue)
6. Treat the puppy
7. Release with “All Done” cue.



**As your puppy advances in skill you should be able to combine steps 4-6 and only treat once the puppy has recalled to a front "Sit."

8. Once the puppy reliably recalls, introduce the verbal cue, "Come" prior to using the visual cue.
9. Once the puppy reliably recalls to the verbal cue "Come" in combination with the visual cue, separate them and practice individually.

Heel:

1. Face the puppy to get their attention. They can be positioned in front of the handler..
2. Hold a treat in your left hand, fingers pointing down to the ground.
3. Bring the treat in front of the pup's nose and lure them toward your left side, leading them back (facing opposite your orientation), then turning them toward you. This should be a semicircle, or horseshoe motion/ "C" motion.
4. Click and treat, followed by praise.
5. Release with "All Done" cue.
6. Move out of position from the puppy and repeat.
7. Repeat 2-3 times and fade the lure, using your hand to guide the puppy
8. Once the puppy is performing the desired behavior, add the verbal cue "Heel" prior to the hand motion.

LLW:

Refer to document Silky Leash and Yielding to Collar Pressure on the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal

Place:

1. Place 3-4 pieces of kibble on the mat/bed while gently restraining your puppy. (The mat/bed should be approximately 1 foot away)
2. With one treat in your hand, release the puppy.
3. As the puppy runs to the treats on the mat and begins to eat them, place your hand with the treat on the mat to help lure the puppy into a "Down" position without using the verbal cue.
4. When the puppy lies down on the mat, give 2-3 treats in rapid succession followed by praise.
5. Release with "All Done" cue.
6. Repeat 2-3 times until the puppy offers the desired behavior without a kibble lure.
7. Once the puppy is offering the desired behavior, introduce the cue "Place" (verbally say the cue while pointing at the mat/bed).

Outside:

Take the puppy out on leash according to a regular relieving schedule appropriate for their age. A good guideline is they can hold their bladder up to one hour for each month old they are. A two month old puppy needs to go out every two hours and a four month old puppy needs to go out every four hours. Allow the puppy enough leash to move out in front of you and cue "Outside". Once the puppy is completely finished relieving, give them a kibble before going back inside. They should be given an opportunity to relieve before any walks and should not relieve during walks/work sessions.

Kennel:

See Crate Training Protocol on the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal

All Done:



Use "All Done" to release your puppy from a particular cue; you can also use it to allow the dog to sniff, greet, play, or to end an obedience session. "All Done" lets the puppy know that they are free from structured obedience.

For example: Anytime you have the puppy in a "Place", use "All Done" when you are ready for them to get up. When teaching "All Done," say the cue and then invite the puppy to play with you. This helps establish the cue as a release. Although "All Done" is a release for the puppy, they do not have to get up and may opt to stay where they are.



Get Dressed:

Puppy should remain standing while working with the vest. If the puppy tries to "Sit" or "Down" you can use a piece of kibble to lure them into a standing position

1. Hold the vest in front of the puppy, so that the neck opening is at the puppy's eye level and no straps are hanging.
2. Holding 2-3 treats in your hand, put your luring hand through the opening of the vest, showing the puppy the kibble.
3. While the hand holding the vest remains stationary, lure the puppy through the opening of the vest by backing out your luring hand slowly through the opening of the vest. Multiple treats can be delivered during this process in a "conveyer belt" motion.
4. When the puppy's head comes all the way through the opening, give treats in rapid succession followed by quiet verbal praise.
5. Hold 2-3 treats up to the puppy's nose and slowly deliver them while gently removing the vest.
6. Repeat steps 1-5 until the puppy becomes more comfortable. At that time you can begin to gently set the vest on the puppy's back and buckle the belly strap (working within the comfort level of your puppy).