

1. Set your dog up for success – adjust where and when you practice so there is the right level of distraction and support for your dog to succeed in the training tasks you are working on.
2. Pay attention to your dog's attention – where are their eyes, nose and ears pointing? If they aren't oriented to you, help them to remember why you are relevant!
3. Use all kinds of rewards to motivate and encourage your dog – praise, petting, stroking, cuddles, happy energetic voice and movements, slow calm strokes, the chance to explore or rest, play or go free for a bit – whatever floats your dog's boat, basically (and this may vary). Don't hesitate to use frequent high value food rewards at first, so they dog gets the point – this is worth doing!!! And then space them out and make them work more to get fewer rewards, increasing your praise in between.
4. Keep your treats off your body /out of sight as much as possible. Once your dog understands a cue (e.g. Sit, or Down) don't give hand signals with food in your hand. Food rewards should magically appear after a dog does the desired behavior, not as a bribe to make them do it.
5. Train in short segments (5 mins is fine) and take breaks (a few minutes at least) between segments – especially when you are working on hard things. If outside – give your dog sniff breaks between practice segments.
6. Watch the Pet Partners evaluation video and identify where your dog struggles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1D2BsTjpzxA>
7. Practice evaluation items in multiple places – find places that are new to your dog – e.g. Napa, or Mini pet Mart, your local bank, etc, and practice sit, down, polite greeting, etc
8. Practice standing still in one place, with you "being a post" and your dog by your side on a short loose leash. Ignore any restlessness, and reward any voluntary settling. Start short (just a few seconds if need be) and build up. Start in your home, e.g. watching TV, put your dog on leash and do this exercise each time the ads come on; or have your dog on leash while you wash the dishes or talk on the phone. Keep your dog close on a short but loose leash. You may have to reward calm attentive patient behavior at first – but if treats get your dog into "tricksy training mode" staring at you or barking for more, it's time to ditch the treats, and work with being boring 😊.
9. Practice leash walking in easy boring places working up to more difficult ones. Reward frequently at first (to help your dog understand what is needed and why do it) and taper off as your dog gets better at it (intermittent reinforcement is more solid in the long term). Don't let your dog pull you when they are wearing the equipment you will use for evaluation and future visits. Use other equipment – or the same kind of equipment but a different color, for example – when your dog is allowed to

do whatever they want.

Try walking in zigs zags and squares, circles and U turns – e.g. lines in parking lot can be helpful for this.

10. Give your dog the chance to hang out with other dogs as much as you can – go for a nice calm walk together with another dog, or get together with friends and let the dogs interact/play but also take time for the dogs to calm down and be patient on leash around each other.
11. If you want your dog to be calm around people and dogs, *practice* being calm around people and other dogs - at a comfortable distance, where your dog can watch but not get excited or anxious, just hang out with your dog and watch the world go by.

If you have any questions or need my help feel welcome to email me!

Happy training

Caroline