

Follow-Up Training Instructions for Cooper

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| Transfer Session #3 | Date: 11/23/19 |
| Training Instruction for: Cooper | |
| Prepared for: Cathy Ward and family | |
| Prepared by: Janis Bishop | |

Review and Progress

Cooper has had 6 Day Training Sessions to teach him to focus on the handler, loose leash walking and turning around and going the other way. The third week I started to introduce him to other dogs off leash – first with a decoy dog and Session 8 with dogs on leash at Shepherd Canyon Trail. He understands “watch me”, “find it”, and “this way” very well so the foundation training piece is in place – great work on your part! It shows.

Cooper is showing definite progress while walking in public and has been very successful in focusing on handler when other dogs are walking away from him or past him at a distance of 20’.

You’ve done great work with him on his walks and reinforcing place on the towel near the door. The training piece is strong, so the next steps will be to add more and more distractions and keep him under threshold and very gradually decreasing the distance with other dogs. Since it’s an emotional response, the time it will take for Cooper to be 100% okay around other dogs all the time depends on patient and gradual desensitization. It’s not about him being trained, it’s about him feeling okay.

The goal will be that when you see another dog on leash, Cooper automatically looks at you and does not have a negative emotional response. Eventually you will be able to decrease the treats and fade them out. Occasional training sessions throughout a dog’s life are always good to proof behaviors to keep them strong.

Training Instructions

1. **Walking Cooper in public – Distance** - Continue to do your best to walk Cooper in places where you have at least 20' visibility of other dogs coming. The very second you see Cooper notice another dog, do "Watch Me" or "Find It". If he won't do it, then do an about face, you are too close and he's not quite ready. Goal is to gradually decrease the distance and Cooper's to automatically look at you when he sees another dog.
2. **Walking Cooper in public - Position** –Cooper may be able to follow a dog within 5 feet or even next to them, but could still have problems with a dog coming directly toward him because "face to face" between dogs can be threatening. Reduce distance on dogs walking away or parallel to him before reducing distance to dogs coming at you. Cue: **Watch Me** and **Find It** or **Let's Go** if you need to move away.
3. **Cooper in Public Places** – Since Cooper has had issues while you try to have him sit with you in public places – this should be addressed in a careful and controlled way. Take him somewhere that has low or no distractions, sit with him, and play "**watch me**" a few times and leave. Build up duration. Slowly add distractions after he has been reinforced for laying quietly with you – places with dogs in distance etc. Go somewhere like a outside patio where you can get some distance, not a bench in Montclair where dogs will walk right past you.
4. **Summary – Cooper has learned strong foundation behaviors** (sit,down, watch me, find it, place) because of the reinforcement training he has had that started in a low-distraction environment. Cooper is an eager learner and very smart and wants to do the right thing. The training he already had, as well as your dedication to working with him and wanting the best for him really shows.

Cooper is a high energy dog and he can get super excited which can quickly turn into frustration for him which causes him to jump, bark, lunge etc. at other dogs and people. Continue to reinforce him for doing what *you want him* to do, first starting in low distraction. Gradually you can add other criteria (duration, distance, distraction). Be patient and work within his threshold and if something is too much for him, just go back to where he was successful.

When Cooper goes "over threshold", it's not possible to get him to listen and trying to give him cues at this time could lessen the effectiveness of the cues so it's better to just manage his behavior. Step on a leash so he doesn't jump, remove yourself from the room or remove him until he calms down. Go back a step to where everyone is successful, reinforce that before adding more complicated criteria.