



HAPPY DOG INSTITUTE'S ONLINE PUPPY CLASS: LIVING ROOM CHALLENGE

Emma Holly | MS, CPDT-KA,
CSAT
Behavior Consultant



SETTING THE SCENE: THE LIVING ROOM

- Teach puppy early that sitting “buys” attention from you and from other people
- Practice reinforcing only when four feet are on the floor
- Use sitting to earn affection and treats from guests
- Teach your dog to settle throughout the day





TEACHING SIT

Step One: Say It

Tell your puppy “Sit” in a cheerful tone of voice.

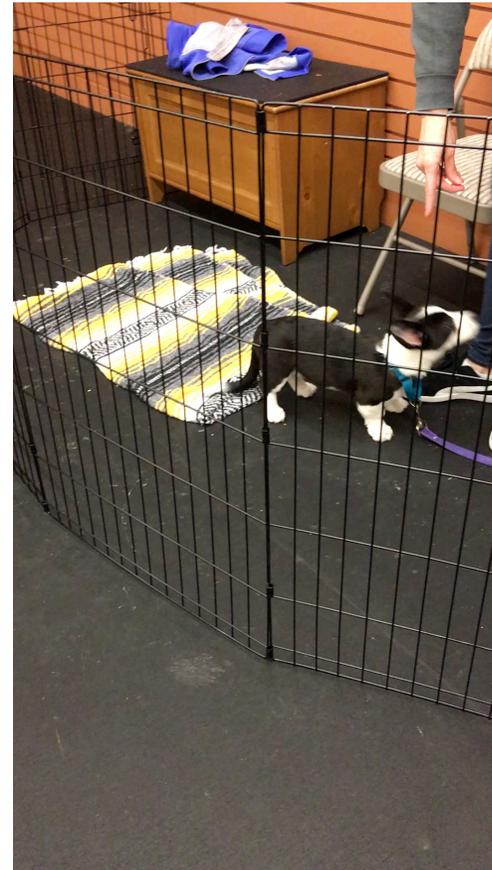
Step Two: Show It

Pause a second or two (one-one thousand, two-one thousand), then “lure” your puppy into a sit by putting the treat up to their snout and slowly moving it backwards and up. Be sure to keep the treat lure near your puppy’s nose—if you move your hand up too quickly and too far away from their mouth they may give up and lose interest.

Step Three: Pay It

As soon as your puppy’s rump hits the ground praise and treat.

VIDEOS: TEACHING SIT





SOCIALIZATION: VACUUM

Step 1: roll the vacuum around without turning it on. Reinforce your puppy for sitting nicely on their mat whenever the vacuum goes by.

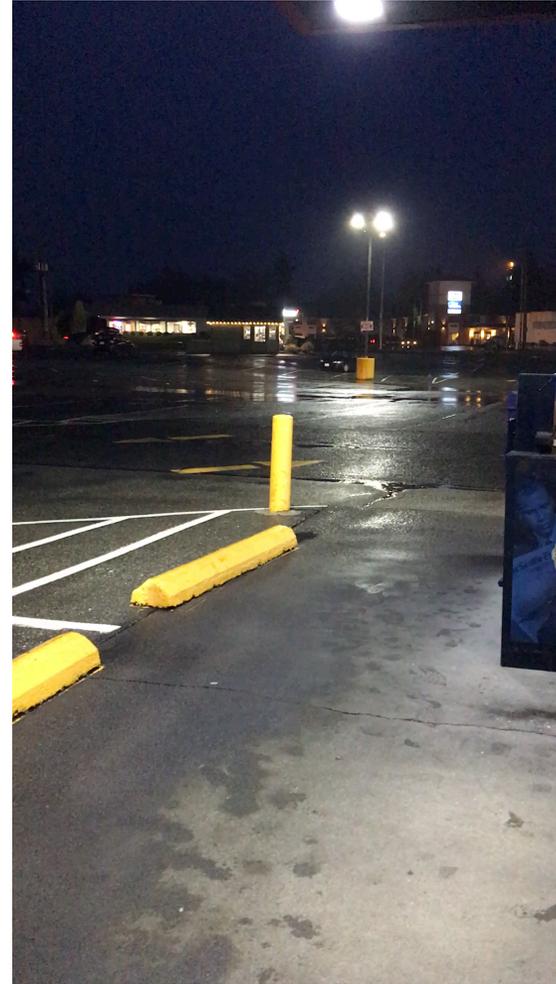
Step 2: when the puppy is comfortable with the vacuum rolling around, take it into the other room and turn it on. You'll need two people for this, because when the vacuum turns on in the other room, puppy gets treats. After about 5 seconds, turn it off for 10 seconds. Repeat

Step 3: Once the puppy is starting to associate treats with the vacuum sound, you can reinforce him for sitting on his mat.



Slowly increase the stimulus level here. When you actually need to vacuum, remove the puppy from the room and have somebody practice with treats in the other room, if possible.

VIDEOS: NOISE





WEEKLY CHALLENGE: HAVING GUESTS OVER

Preparing for guests when you have a puppy takes a little planning. Take into consideration your puppy, the layout of your home, your visitors' comfort with dogs, and your own comfort and stress levels around entertaining, then think about what approach or mix of approaches might be best for handling visitors.

- Where will your puppy be when guests knock or ring the doorbell?
- How will you introduce your puppy to guests?
- How will you reward your puppy for greeting guests politely?
- What behaviors does your puppy know that might be helpful?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE: HAVING GUESTS OVER, CONT'D

Whichever approaches you choose, **be sure to practice these regularly without guests around** so that your puppy has a lot of practice with them.

Practice while it's just you and your puppy at home, **then begin to practice when anyone you live with comes home.** Once this is going well, invite a friend or family member over who is willing to come over so you can practice with a guest. Start small—one person first, then a couple people once that's going well.

When you invite people over, get any materials you are going to use ready—mat, treats, etc. Also warm your puppy up before guests arrive with several practice sessions.

Of course, once you add a new situation such a guest, you've made things harder and your puppy may have less success with the behaviors you've been practicing. So **be ready to reinforce often, use your "Show It" step, and work at your pup's level.**

If you're going to have guests over before your puppy is ready, consider setting your puppy up comfortably in a crate or other room with some things to chew on. **If you don't have time to train, you don't want him to have an opportunity to practice bad habits.**

VIDEO: KIDS, MEN WITH HATS & BEARDS + DOGS

