

IETD Training Commands and their relevance to therapy dog on site visits

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Up/Down Focus - Place treat on floor between your feet. After dog eats treat wait for him to look at your face. When he does, mark it with a yes, and then reward with treat on floor between your feet. Continue doing several reps of this. It will encourage your dog to look to you.

****Pattern games** help dogs by providing predictability and structure, which can reduce anxiety and improve focus, particularly in new or challenging environments. This can be very helpful for dogs who get overstimulated, anxious or have trouble focusing in difficult situations.

Leave It - Various items are placed around on the floor. Walk dog on a loose leash around the items. State a firm Leave it, before the dog sniffs or tastes. Several reps of leave it should be done.

****Leave it** is an extremely important command to teach your dog as a Therapy dog. When visiting hospitals, pills, gauze, bandaids, blood drops etc can be spilled on the floor. Some things that could even be fatal to your dog if he ingested them might be on the floor so it is important to practice a firm leave it no matter the circumstances.

Walking Figure 8's - Walk the 8 pattern while changing speed and direction.

**** All walking exercises** are important for therapy work as they assure your dog is in control at all times. Walking left turn and right turn-Cones set into a square. Walk the outside perimeter of the square, at each corner point state left or right.

Walking Sits/Downs On Mat - Place about six mats on the floor about four foot apart. Begin walking towards the mat. At the first, place dog in Sit, at the second. Place dog in down and continue alternating sits & downs on all mats.

Weave Between Dogs - Line up handlers and dogs into 3 rows, spaced about four feet apart. Begin at one end and weave in between with your dog. All line dogs need to be in a sit. If your dog breaks, immediately place him back into sit. While weaving, encourage your dog to look at you while next to the line dog.

****Weaving among dogs** is very good exercise for therapy work as it will teach your dog to ignore other dogs while visiting and keep them under control.

Meet & Greet Walk Center - 1st pair walk to center, greet and shake hands and proceed down the center together, at the end Say goodbye, shake and go back to sidelines.

****Meet & greets** are beneficial for therapy work as it will teach your dog to calmly remain at your side when you are greeting people with or without dogs, and show that your dog is under your control.

Meet & Greet- Each odd/even pair walk to center, greet, shake and turn and go back to Side.

Sit/Stay & Come - All handlers & dogs line up on one side. Walk dogs forward approximately 10ft. Place dog into sit/stay or down/stay, turn and walk back to the sideline. Turn and then call your dog to come to you. Completion of come command is dog sitting in front of you.

****Sit/stay come** is beneficial when doing airport visits. When going through metal detectors your dog must wait in stay while you proceed through and then come to you when called.

Sit/Stay & Down/Stay - Dog is placed in a sit/stay or down/stay for 1 -3 minutes. Dog must remain in position until released by the handler. Must consistently use a release word to release the dog.

****Sit/stay and Down/stay** are key positions for therapy dogs. When visiting at libraries or schools dogs may have to remain in down/sit stay for extended periods. It is beneficial to work on extending the duration that dogs must remain.

Place - Dog is to move to a specific rug, mat, towel, blanket etc and remain on it until he is released. Dog may stand, sit or lie down while in place and must not move off no matter what the distraction, until he is released by the handler.

****Used in place of down/stay** when dog is on a visit and may stand, down or sit just not move off the mat.

Back - while dog is standing upright, take a treat at his nose and slowly push back towards the dog, if the dog takes a step or two backwards immediately mark it with “yes” and give a reward. Go slowly, if you push too far too fast the dog will end up sitting. When the dog begins moving a couple steps back add the verbal command “Back”. Praise and reward.

****Teaching your dog to move back** is beneficial if someone is passing and your dog is in the way.

Wait - Dog is taught to wait at the doorway, inside vehicle until owner has clipped the leash, before entering a building or room. Owner always enters first to ensure there is nothing in the way of your dog entering/exiting.

****Wait** is important to prevent your dog from barreling through a doorway ahead of you causing a disruption no matter where you are visiting. Human always enters first, views both ways and then invites the dog to proceed.

Heel-Dog walks with a loose leash at the owners side and automatically sits when the owner stops.

****shows dog is under your control and focused on the handler.**

Elevator Game - Squares are marked with four cones. Several dogs and handlers are placed inside the square(elevator) to simulate riding in elevator. Dogs are moved between elevators to simulate people getting on and off elevator.

****beneficial while on hospital visits or any visit that requires an elevator ride.**