

COMMANDS

There are a few basic commands that will give you great control over your dog.

Come: This command can be as structured as you want. “Come” to NLN means for the dog to come, sit directly in front of you, and look up. This assures you that your dog is fully focused on you instead of the surrounding environment. Never let your dog come and sit with his back turned to you. If your dog does this, move in a direction opposite to their back and call them again so they must come facing you.

Sit/ Down: Sit/Down in that spot until released using your release word; “Free, Go Play, etc.”

Heel: Walk beside the owner with the dog’s shoulders in line with the owner’s legs. The leash must be loose when walking.

Let’s Go: “Let’s go” is a loose walking command. This is less structured than heel and is great for hiking.

Place: To your dog, this command means go to a spot and hang out. “Place” can be anything that is elevated from the ground (even a blanket). In the beginning, it helps to have “Place” be very obvious e.g. dog bed, place cot, park bench or picnic table. As the dog gets more comfortable with the “Place” command, you can move to things that are less elevated such as a rug or blanket.

Look: Look directly at you until released.

Off: Off is used to stop an unwanted behavior as in “knock it off”. Use “Off” when the dog is jumping up, chewing, play biting, digging, counter surfing, etc. No Leash Needed recommends following “Off” with a command that can be praised after execution. For example, if your dog runs up to greet you by jumping on you, calmly tell them “Off” and then “Sit”, that way when the dog sits you can release and praise them. This will make your dog want to do the actions that result in praise.

Leave It: This is used if your dog is about to grab something you don’t want them to have, perhaps a piece of trash on the sidewalk. To practice this command, it is imperative to start slowly, always ensuring your dog never gets the object you are trying to prevent them from getting. When first practicing, keep an object in your hand that your dog wants, as your dog approaches it, cup your hand and say “Leave It”. Keep doing this as your dog comes close to the object, eventually, you should be able to keep an object in your hand without your dog trying to get it. Remember to use your verbal marks to give your dog the cues of “Yes” for leaving the treat and “No” for attempting to access the treat. If using a food reward, be sure to give the dog the reward from the opposite hand, never giving the object you are trying to “Leave It”. As your dog gets better, this command will get proofed on walks and with objects on the floor.

Remember, if you are having difficulties on what these commands should look like, check out the Training Videos on our website under the login and/or ask your trainer! Your success is our goal!