



# HUMANE SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY

## Intermediate Obedience for Dogs

### Handout #1

At this point in your dog's obedience training you should both have a firm grasp on the basics. Cues such as sit, down, stay, recall and loose leash walking should be easily accomplished. There will only be a brief review of these cues. The primary focus for these cues will be strengthening them. Increasing response and decreasing latency will be our goal. Applying duration, distractions and distance will begin the training process of "Proofing" your dog.

#### **"Proofing"**

Proofing is an important process in training. Your dog is taught to perform behaviors while distractions are present. The distractions can be increasing the stimuli, increasing the distance from the dog and / or increasing the duration of the behavior. Proofing gives important feedback to the handler and answers the question; "Is my dog ready for the next level of duration, distraction or distance?" If your dog's success rate with the behavior is at 80% or greater then the answer is yes, it is time to move on to a more challenging level, otherwise keep working on the current behavior.

#### **Stand**

- Teach your dog to stand from sit or down positions.
- Hold a treat in front of the dog's nose.
- Slowly move treat up (only slightly from the sit position) and out (away from dog).
- As head follows treat his body will move into a standing position.
- Be careful not to hold treat too high as to cause jumping up.
- As soon as dog stands mark the behavior by saying "good dog" and deliver food reward.
- Once dog is reliably offering behavior (standing) add a verbal cue, say dog's name then cue; "Buster, stand" = dog stands = "good dog" = food reward.

#### **Stop**

- Teach your dog to stop his forward movement.
- Begin with dog walking on your left side.
- Stop walking and extend your arm, palm out, with the back of your hand facing the dog.
- Cup a small food treat in the palm of your hand and cover with your thumb.
- When dog stops beside you mark the behavior by saying "good dog" and deliver food reward.

- Once dog is reliably offering behavior (standing) add a verbal cue, say dog's name then cue; "Buster, stop" = dog stops = "good dog" = food reward.

### **Front**

This cue is combined with the recall cue. The goal is to recall your dog when he is off leash. When he comes back to you he completes the behavior by automatically sitting directly in front of you.

- This cue should begin with good recall reliability.
- Cue a recall.
- As dog comes in close to you and before he stops cue a sit.
- You may need to adjust your position in the beginning to achieve a straight sit.
- Make any adjustments to your position during the behavior.
- When your dog sits in front of you mark the behavior by saying "good dog and deliver a food reward.
- You may use an additional verbal cue once your dog is offering the behavior reliably (without saying sit); "Buster, Front", defining the required position. An automatic front sit after recall is our goal; however a "front" cue may be used additionally to position or align your dog in front of you whenever needed.