

Beginning the most important command

The command "come" is interesting because when we get a puppy at 7-8 weeks they almost always come when we call them, this gives us a false sense of obedience when in actuality the puppy is simply coming to a happy voice!

As they get older, 11-13 weeks they realize there is a big world to explore and that they have free will. Once they quit coming when called and sometimes even trying to get us to play along with their "catch me" game we see it as disobedience when really they never were taught or knew the command come in the first place!

To begin teaching a command the first rule is this: one puppy, one command. Whichever command that is: sit, heel, down, stay, come, etc. When we repeat commands we are effectively teaching the dog they can disobey us the first 3-4 times we say something or that they can until our voice reaches a certain decibel.. which makes us "Walmart parents"!



Get a 12 foot twine/rope* and attach it the puppy's collar or harness, have them drag that around in the house and outside. Multiple times per day get close enough to the end of the rope that you can step on it and grab it, then call the dog to come: "Sadie Come" and immediately reel the pup in to you praising the whole way. Even if the pup is pulling away just gently pull them in.

Lots of praise when they get to you then let them go. Do this over and over, repetition is key in training! What you are teaching the pup is first of all what the word come means and secondly that you have control of them even from a distance. Never call the pup to come unless you can immediately enforce it (i.e have the rope close enough to grab)

The dragging rope is also used to teach the dog not to bolt out of doors. Open the door, give the command "wait" (not stay, stay is much more formal) and when the pup goes to bolt, step on the rope and pull the pup back inside and praise

You can also use this rope if your pup has started the

"ha-ha-you-can't-catch-me-game". Simply step on the rope, pull the pup to you, take whatever object they have been playing keep away with and Praise Praise Praise!!

***(paracord with a clip, or attached to the collar with a loop)**

