

# CRIEFF DOG CLUB

## HELP SHEET FOUR

**KEEP PRACTISING!** – remember the key steps: **Name – Command – Mark & Reward – Release**

Think about what you are communicating with your body language because your dog is watching you even when you are not aware of it. Training means creating good habits and behaviour while having fun with your dog – you can do this any time, and anywhere.

**Walking on Lead:** Short sessions every day, change direction to keep your dog watching you, guessing which way you'll go next – heel work can be a great game, keep it fun for both of you! Give lots of positive feedback when dog gets it right, and make the most of rewards. Try walking your dog at your right side – this is called SIDE instead of the left (HEEL) This could be useful near a busy road

**Handling and Inspecting your dog** –this should be a daily and enjoyable contact time for you and your dog.

**Sit / Down / Stand:** Practise often throughout the day in short bursts – make it fun!! Don't forget to use 'natural treats' (e.g. meal time, walk time) to ask your dog to do a STAY for you.

**Recall:** Keep practising the recall even when you don't really need your dog to come back and make it a game with a reward of either treats or toys. Try hiding when recalling your dog so that it has to seek you out. Play "hide and seek"

**Playing with a toy** – Play time is good for you and your dog! Remember it should be your toy that the dog gets to play with and it shouldn't "guard" it

**Leave it:** Practise this often – and remember, there is no need to threaten your dog! Use a gentle command and simply cover the food with your hand and start again if you need to. ALWAYS use an alternative treat to help your dog understand that 'leave it' means it doesn't touch. ***Don't give the dog the food that it has been asked to "leave"***

**Tip for the week:** Each time you praise and reward your dog for doing as you ask, it is learning that good things happen when it does as asked and it is more likely it will do it again Aim for success at the level your dog can manage and don't practise if you aren't in a particularly good mood

**Keywords: FUN – CONFIDENCE – POSITIVE – ENTHUSIASM**  
***and see how your dog will learn quickly!***

Remember – Classes are on the FIRST and THIRD Saturday of each month.