

La Crosse County 4-H Dog Project
Beginning Obedience Class
Week 1 Homework

The first thing to understand is puppies and dogs alike already know how to sit and lay down. We just need to teach them to do this on command. We start all dogs with lots of praise when the dog is doing the right thing, with little to no correction for the doing the wrong things. Food and/or tug toys are used as reward and motivation. Treats should be very small, about the size of a raisin, just big enough so the dog does not have to chew excessively. Please do not use regular dog food: a treat should be something special the dog is rewarded with during training. I recommend diced turkey hot dogs, cheese, or FreshPet Select® dog food rolls (only if you do not regularly use this as dog food). Dogs should not be fed before training.

Practice two to three times a day, for approximately 10-15 minutes. Short training sessions are more productive than long, drawn out training sessions. Read your homework sheet before you take your dog out to work; this way you can go into your practice time with a goal of what you want to accomplish in mind. Do reps of five when working on the sits, downs, and the controlled heeling exercise. Mix up the exercises, so the dog doesn't become bored with a particular exercise. All exercises are ON LEASH unless otherwise stated.

Release: The release command is used to communicate to the dog that a particular exercise is over. Your body should be leaning back as your arms go up saying the release command in a high pitched, excited voice, always immediately praising the dog after releasing him. Example release command: "Okay!"

Induced Sit: Start with your dog positioned at your left side, and a treat/toy in your left hand. The treat is held in front of the dog's nose, is lifted up, over, and back of the nose, as you say the command "sit." When the dog sits, give the treat and praise immediately! Then release.

Placed Sit:

1. Place right hand on dog's chest	4. Right hand pushes back
2. Left hand on croup. (Base of tail)	5. Praise "Good Sit!"
3. Left hand pushes down	6. Repeat at least 5 times.

Induced Down: Start with your dog positioned on your left side, and treat/toy in your right hand. The treat is held in front of the dog's nose. Your right hand slides straight down to floor, between the dog's paws, as you give the command to "down." Then slide your right hand straight out in front of the dog, guiding him into the down position. Try to do this all in one motion. Give the reward, praise, release, and praise some more.

Placed Down: If you dog is uncomfortable with laying down, or doesn't like anyone to touch his legs, only work on the induced down for the first week. For dogs who don't mind you handling their legs, and are not mastering the induced down, try the steps below for the placed down.

1. Kneel on leash
2. Your left arm drapes over the dog's withers (Base of neck)
3. Place your left hand with palm open behind dog's left foreleg
4. Place your right hand with palm open behind right foreleg
5. Using your open palms, lift up the dog's front legs
6. Gently lower dog down as you give command "down."
7. Praise dog by saying "good down! Good down." Use the word "down" in a positive manner so your dog begins to associate the word "down," with the action of lying down and positive encouragement.

Controlled Walking: Dog is sitting at your left side, with the leash folded together in your hands. (Make sure no ends are hanging out) The leash should be loose enough so the snap is parallel to the floor, not tight pointing up towards you. Firmly hold the leash at waist height. Give verbal command “Dog’s name, heel” and step forward with your left foot. When your dog pulls ahead of you, immediately make a sharp right turn, giving your dog a correcting jerk for pulling. When your dog begins walking by your side, praise him by saying, “Heel! Good Heel!” Whatever direction your dog chooses to pull in, you should go in the opposite direction, while verbally encouraging your dog to stay by your side. Do this until you are able to take ten steps with the dog in heel position. Remember to praise your dog by saying “Good heel! Heel!” whenever he is in the correct position.

La Crosse County 4-H Dog Project
Beginning Obedience Class
Week 2 Homework

Practice two to three times a day, for approximately 10-15 minutes. Short training sessions are more productive than long, drawn out training sessions. Remember to read your homework sheet before you take your dog out to work; this way you can go into your practice time with a goal of what you want to accomplish in mind. Always remember, all exercises are ON LEASH unless otherwise stated.

Sit: *After practicing last week, your dog should understand what sit means. This week we will add correction if he does not comply with your command.* Ask dog to sit as you did last week, if he does not sit, pop up and back on the lead with your right hand as you push down on his rear with your left hand, repeating the command “sit!” Try to coordinate both hands so they move together in one motion. After your dog has sat, calmly, but with enthusiasm, praise his correct behavior. Anytime your dog does not sit in response to your first verbal command, correct him.

Sit STAY: *The goal of this exercise is to teach the dog to sit in position without moving anything, (except his tail or head) while you are away from his side, until he is released.* Begin in the basic position. (Dog sitting on your left side, leashed.) Give the command “stay” while simultaneously giving the stay hand signal. (Hand signal is given with your left hand, palm open in front of dog’s face, without touching him.) Take your first step with your right foot, stepping out and pivoting in front the dog to face his nose. Hold the lead loose, but without excess slack, over the dog’s head. If at any time the dog moves, leans forward, or appears about to move, give a sit correction using the leash you are holding over his head. If he remains sitting, calmly praise him. Gradually increase the amount of time you expect the dog to stay from 20 to 60 seconds. To return to your dog, pivot back to the basic position. If the dog moves as you return, correct him, following the correction with praise if he remains sitting. Wait several second after you return to the dog’s side before releasing him with a happy “okay!”

Down: Begin in the basic position. Kneel at your dog’s side and give command to down as you did last week. If he does not down, use both hands, take the leash near the clasp and repeat the command, give a sharp jerk down towards your right foot forcing the dog to down. Immediately place your left foot on the leash so your dog does not get up and softly praise him while lightly stroking his back. Stand up, wait a few seconds, then release him following up the release with lots of praise.

Down STAY: Begin in the basic position. Follow the directions for the down. Give both the verbal command stay and the hand signal as in the sit stay. If necessary, you may keep your foot on the lead. If your dog moves or appears to be about to move correct him in the same manor as in the down. You may speak in a quiet, gentle voice to praise the dog while he is on the stay.

Stand with Target: *For this exercise you will need a small white “target” (An upside down cool whip like container works great for a target!) with some yummy dog treats. The treats are placed on the “target” to serve as a “bull’s eye” for your dog to take the treat from.* Begin in the basic position with your loaded target about 2 feet (or less) in front of your dog. (How far in front of

the dog the target is will depend on their size and drive.) Hold onto his collar with your right hand, take your left hand and gently slide it under his belly helping him into the stand position, while telling your dog to “stand.” Rubbing his belly while he stands will encourage him to stand still. When your dog is standing by himself, without you supporting his belly with your hand, or excessively restraining him with your right hand, release him with a happy “Okay!” and let him eat the treat on the target.

Informal Recall: Walk your dog on a loose leash, allowing him to wander in front of you. When he is at the end of his leash, suddenly call him in a happy and excited tone saying, “Come!” and jog backwards until he runs after you. As he catches up to you show him a treat in your hand, stop, and guide him with the treat until he is sitting directly in front of you. Pause a moment, and then give him the treat and release him. Do this multiple times during your training sessions. Try mixing it in between your other exercises to keep your dog engaged and excited during training.

Heeling: Continue to practice your controlled walking like in week one. As your dog begins to walk by your side anticipating treats and praise instead of pulling ahead, you know you are ready for the next step! Begin heeling by giving your dog the “Heel” command, and start walking in a clock-wise circle talking to your dog, giving him treats if he is walking by your side, and encouraging him look at your face. If he makes it one time around your circle that is about no bigger than 8 feet across, release him by saying “Okay!” and stopping to praise his behavior. The goal of walking in a small, tight clockwise circle is to encourage him to walk quickly by your side while looking at your face. The clockwise circle also helps keep his body parallel to you while training.

FUN DOGGIE DENTAL FACTS!

Puppies develop 28 temporary teeth at two to three weeks of age. Their 42 permanent teeth emerge at about four months.

Studies show that, by age 3, 80 percent of dogs exhibit signs of gum disease.

Small dog breeds are more likely than large breeds to develop periodontal disease. Canine dentistry experts believe this is because the teeth of small dogs often are too large for their mouths, forcing the teeth closer together.

Do's and Don'ts

- Don't use human toothpaste on your pet.
- Do use a toothbrush without any paste at first so that your pet may get used to the object in the mouth before having to contend with flavor

- Don't attempt to clean the inner surface of your pet's teeth. Natural saliva cleans this surface on its own.
- Do try to perform dental home care at least once daily.

TREATS and FOODS can help keep your pet's mouth healthy!

You can find real smoked beef bones at your local pet store, or meat market. By chewing on these bones, your dog can help keep his own teeth clean, by scraping the plaque off his teeth while he chews on the bone! This will help your brushing process become easier and more enjoyable. Ask your vet for other recommendations of other healthy dog treats and foods that can help with your dog's oral health.

Please always ask your mom or dad, or a responsible adult your pet is accustomed to, for assistance with dental care. Remember your vet is only a phone call away! Don't be afraid to call and ask for pointers! :)

La Crosse County 4-H Dog Project
Beginning Obedience Class
Week 3 Homework

Sit STAY with Return: *After practicing the sit for the last two weeks, your dog should be comfortable with you standing in front of him while he calmly waits for you to release him. Begin in the basic position. (Dog sitting on your left side) Command your dog to “Sit, Stay” while using the stay hand signal. Leave your dog and go out 2 or 3 steps. Make sure you are ready to correct your dog if he tries to get up! Wait for a few seconds before you return to the basic position by stepping to your right, walking around behind your dog, and finishing in the basic position with the dog on your left. Release your dog with a happy “Okay!” and praise him. The first time you practice this, your dog will most likely want to stand up when you are behind him. Be prepared to correct him if he moves, or acts like he is about to move. Make it your goal to have your dog sit-stay for 30 to 45 seconds before returning to his basic position by walking around behind him. Make sure you don’t step on his tail!*

Down STAY with Return: *This exercise is exactly the same as the sit-stay with return, except your dog is sitting, instead of lying down. Begin in the basic position. Command your dog to down. Once your dog is down tell him to stay and step in front of him. Wait a few seconds before returning to the basic position by walking around behind your dog. Returning to the basic position is done the same for the sit-stay, down-stay, and stand for examination. It’s important for your dog to get used to you walking around him without him breaking whatever position you placed him in.*

Stand with Target, #2: *For this exercise you will need a small white “target” (An upside down cool whip like container works great for a target!) with some yummy dog treats. The treats are placed on the “target” to serve as a “bull’s eye” for your dog to take the treat from. Begin by kneeling on your dog’s left side, with your loaded target about 2 feet in front of your dog. Hold onto his collar with your right hand, command him to “stand” and gently pull forward on his collar to help your dog into the stand. Instead of rubbing his belly like in week 2, Slip the end of your leash under his belly creating a loop that your dog is inside of. Now you can stand up. If your dog tries to sit, or move, you can now steady his backend with the leash that is under him, and hold his head still at the same time. When your dog is standing by himself, without you supporting his belly, or excessively restraining him, release him with a happy “Okay!” and let him eat the treat on the target.*

Informal Recall: Continue to practice as in week 2.

Heeling with Sit: *After practicing for the last two weeks your dog should be beginning to understand that if he walks by your side in a controlled manner he will be rewarded for his efforts. Now it’s time to teach him to sit when you stop. Begin in the basic position, with the leash in your right hand. Tell your dog to “heel,” and step forward with your left foot. Walk straight a head for 5 paces and then stop, making him sit when you stop by popping up on his leash with your right hand, and pushing down on his rear end with your left hand. When he sits, praise him and reward with a treat. Every time he sits when you stop, give him a treat. Your goal is to make sitting when you stop a race between you and your dog. You want your dog to try to sit faster*

then you can place him into the sit. If your dog sits quickly on his own without your help, praise him abundantly, give him “jackpot treats” (lots of little treats one right after another,) and release him from the exercise. If your dog is pulling you, stop and make him sit, or walk in random directions, always making him sit once you have turned away from the direction your dog wants to go in. (Just like you did in week 1 with the controlled walking exercise.) Practice this multiple times during your training sessions.

Finish: *The finish teaches the dog how to return to the basic position if he is sitting directly in front of you. There are two options for how this is accomplished #1 “Round.” The dog steps to your RIGHT, walks around behind you, and finishes by sitting in the basic position on your LEFT side. The “round” is usually easiest for large dogs #2 “Swing.” The dog steps directly to your LEFT side, swings his rear end around (so he is positioned straight, facing forward, on your left side) and then sits. The “swing” is usually easiest for small dogs. Whatever method you decide is best for your dog, stick with it, and practice it until your dog has mastered the command. This is a fun, quick exercise that should be practiced regularly in many different situations.*

Round: Begin with your dog sitting directly in front of you. Take the leash in your right hand, tell your dog to “round” and then step backwards with your right leg and use the leash to guide the dog behind you. While your dog is walking around you, behind your back switch the leash from your right hand to your left. As soon as the leash is in your left hand, take a few hurried steps forward, leading out with your left leg, encouraging your dog to hurry to catch up to you. When your dog has caught up to you, immediately place him and a sit. Calmly pet him and tell him what a good boy he is for a moment and then release him.

Swing: Begin with your dog sitting directly in front of you. Take the leash in your left hand, tell your dog to “swing” and then step backwards with your left leg. Your dog will follow the movement of your leg and walk to your side. Once your dog is almost behind you, take a few hurried steps forward, leading with your left leg. Your dog should turn towards you, and then hurry to catch up with you. The moment when your dog is once again at your left side, place him in a sit. Calmly pet and praise him for a moment, and then release him.

Note: You can use treats as rewards in addition to praise anytime it’s written “praise your dog.” If treats motivate your dog, by all means use them! 😊

FUN....OR NOT SO FUN. FLEA AND TICK FACTS!

→ Fleas can bite up to 400 times a day!

→ Fleas can jump a distance that measures 150 times their own size, 30,000 times in a row

without stopping, in opposite directions (left and right) with every jump! Wow!

→ A female flea consumes 15 times her own body weight in blood every day.

→ A female flea can lay 2,000 eggs.

- Just one flea can multiply to 1,000 fleas on your pet and in your home in 21 days.
 - On average, a flea lives 2-3 months.
 - Adult fleas spend most of their lives feasting on your pet.
-

- Ticks are more closely related to spiders and scorpions than insects.
- Ticks get onto pets and people by jumping.
- There are two main types of ticks: hard and soft.
- Hard ticks are found in the woods.
- Soft ticks have tough, leathery skin. They can be found in caves, cabins and on birds

Don't forget to talk to your veterinarian about the best flea and tick preventative for your dog!

SHANA SAVIKKO, DVM

- Fleas can bite up to 400 times a day!
- Fleas can jump ...
 - a distance that measures 150 times their own size.
 - 30,000 times in a row without stopping.
 - in opposite direction (left and right) with every jump.
- A female flea consumes 15 times her own body weight in blood every day.
- A female flea can lay 2,000 eggs.
- Just one flea can multiply to 1,000 fleas on your pet and in your home in 21 days.
- Flea fossils date all the way back to the Lower Cretaceous period ... about 100 million years!
- On average, a flea lives 2-3 months.
- Adult fleas spend most of their lives feasting on your pet.

All of these facts mean one thing: fleas are tough to deal with.



The good news is new veterinary-grade products not only kill adult fleas but prevent young fleas from maturing. With these products—plus time, patience and perseverance—you can get rid of fleas.

No dog or cat needs to live with fleas. Here are a few tips for relieving your pets' misery. To learn more about fleas and what you can do about them, see the resources at the end of the article.

Your pet

Use a veterinary-grade flea insecticide on your pet. The purpose is to kill the adult fleas that live on your pet. Since most veterinary-grade products work for at least 30 days, your pet is well-protected. That's because a veterinary-grade product will kill the adult fleas that jump onto your pet—and the eggs or larvae, too.

Even better: The newest veterinary-grade products contain growth inhibitors that prevent fleas from maturing.

Dogs and cats need different care. Several formulations can be used to rid your pet of fleas, including topical and oral treatments. But not every product is right for every pet. For example, some products are fine for dogs but unsafe for cats. If you share your home with both dogs and cats, you'll want to avoid treating your dog with products that are unsafe for cats. Let your veterinarian know if you share your home with both dogs and cats so you can be sure to protect all of your pets safely.

More is *not* better. Never use more than one flea product on your pet without your veterinarian's approval. Using a shampoo or dip along with a topical or oral flea product can cause your pet to take in too much of the active ingredients in these products, leading to a bad reaction or even poisoning.

Your home

There was a day when it seemed you had to kill fleas over and over again, or spray your house and yard with dangerous pesticides, because the parasites kept reproducing. That day is over.

With veterinary-grade products that contain growth inhibitors, fleas do not mature, which means no more eggs! This means you probably won't need to spray your home or yard.

The best way to rid your home of fleas is by vacuuming. Research at The Ohio State University proved that vacuuming kills 96% of adult fleas and 100% of young fleas. This is an easy way to deal with the fleas living in your carpet and fabrics, but needs to be done every 2-3 days for at least four weeks.

When vacuuming, pay special attention to the places fleas like best. Immature fleas shy away from light, burying themselves in carpets, fabrics, and nooks and crannies. Be sure to focus your efforts on areas that are shady or dark.

When you are done vacuuming, put the vacuum bag in a garbage bag, seal it tightly, and put it in an outdoor trash container.

Wash your pet's bedding once a week for at least four weeks. Or throw it away.

Your yard

If your pet lives outdoors where fleas are plentiful, you may need to treat the yard. Most fleas are found in your pet's bedding and areas where your pet rests or spends time. If you are using one of the new veterinary-approved products, the yard is not the highest of concern. Just be sure to clean the area and wash or change the bedding.

Good news!

In most cases, unless you have an extreme infestation, vacuuming frequently and treating your pet with a

veterinary-grade product that includes a growth inhibitor is all you need to do keep your pet flea-free.

Preventing parasites

Don't forget about heartworm prevention while tackling the issue of pet parasites. The American Heartworm Society and the Companion Animal Parasite Council recommend that all pets receive year-round heartworm protection so that pets are protected every month. It is critical that doses not be skipped or intervals between doses be extended because this results in an unprotected time during which animals may be exposed to heartworm larvae. Pets should also have annual heartworm testing by a veterinarian prior to prescribing a heartworm medication.

La Crosse County 4-H Dog Project
Beginning Obedience Class
Week 4 Homework

Sit STAY with Return: Begin in the basic position. (Dog sitting on your left side) Command your dog to “Sit, Stay” while using the stay hand signal. Leave your dog and go out to the end of your leash if possible, or as far out as your dog is comfortable. Make sure you are ready to correct your dog if he tries to get up! Have the goal of a one minute sit stay. Return to the basic position by walking back to your dog, then around behind your dog, and finishing in the basic position with the dog on your left. Release your dog with a happy “Okay!” and praise him. Make sure you don’t step on his tail!

Down STAY with Return: *This exercise is exactly the same as the sit-stay with return, except your dog is sitting, instead of lying down.* Begin in the basic position. Command your dog to down. Once your dog is down, tell him to stay and leave your dog. Go out to the end of your leash if possible, or as far out as your dog is comfortable with. Make sure you are ready to correct your dog if he tries to get up! You should be working on a one to two minute down stay. Return to the basic position by walking around behind your dog, like you did for the sit stay.

Stand: Begin in the basic position. Start with a treat in your right hand holding it in front of your dog’s nose. Slowly pull the treat straight forward from the dog’s nose and say “Stand.” Your dog should recognize the command and stand up, following the movement of your hand. As soon as your dog is standing, reward him with the treat and place the leash under his belly like you did in week three. Tell your dog to “stay” and step in front of him. If your dog tries to sit, or move, steady his backend with the leash that is under him. Practice this when there are distractions around. Talk to one of your family members or a friend and have them come up to your dog without saying his name, and turn around and leave. If your dog does not move, return to the basic position and release him, giving him a treat. Once your dog has learned to stand still when someone walks up to him, try having them run their hand down his back once, and then walk away. Your dog should just stand still and wait for you to return to the basic position and release him before he moves. Remember, if you see your dog move at all, correct him, and possibly decrease the distractions in his environment until he can stand still consistently until your release him.

Formal Recall without finish: Begin in the basic position. Tell your dog to “Sit-Stay,” and walk out to the end of your six foot leash. Wait a moment and then call your dog by saying “Come!!!” in a happy and excited tone. Start jogging backwards like you did during the Informal Recall. As he catches up to you show him a treat in your hand, stop, and guide him with the treat until he is sitting directly in front of you. Pause a moment, and then give him the treat and release him. Do this multiple times during your training sessions. Try mixing it in between your other exercises to keep your dog engaged and excited during training.

Heeling with About Turn: Begin in the basic position, with the leash in your right hand. Tell your dog to “heel,” and step forward with your left foot. Walk straight a head for 5 paces and then carefully turn 180 degrees to your right, and continue to walk in the direction you came from. After walking a few paces, stop, your dog should sit, and then release and praise your dog.

The most important thing to work on to make your about turns successful, is to encourage your dog to follow you by using a happy voice while you are turning, and by practicing your footwork. Make sure you look at the Footwork chart handout for the week! When you are practicing turning away from your dog, try to keep your feet as close together as possible.

Figure 8 with Chairs: *Set up two chairs about 8 feet apart from each other to practice your figure 8 exercise. Begin in the basic position, with one chair positioned on your left, and the other on your right. Give the command “Heel,” lead out with your left foot, and walk around the left chair and then immediately walk to the right chair, and walk around it. Your dog should walk close to the chairs without touching them or sniffing them. During the exercise, talk happily to your dog, especially when you walk around the right chair. Practice stopping and having your dog sit at random times as you walk around the chairs.*

Continue to practice the Finish as in Week 3

Finish: *The finish teaches the dog how to return to the basic position if he is sitting directly in front of you. There are two options for how this is accomplished #1 “Round.” The dog steps to your RIGHT, walks around behind you, and finishes by sitting in the basic position on your LEFT side. The “round” is usually easiest for large dogs #2 “Swing.” The dog steps directly to your LEFT side, swings his rear end around (so he is positioned straight, facing forward, on your left side) and then sits. The “swing” is usually easiest for small dogs. Whatever method you decide is best for your dog, stick with it, and practice it until your dog has mastered the command. This is a fun, quick exercise that should be practiced regularly in many different situations.*

Round: Begin with your dog sitting directly in front of you. Take the leash in your right hand, tell your dog to “round” and then step backwards with your right leg and use the leash to guide the dog behind you. While your dog is walking around you, behind your back switch the leash from your right hand to your left. As soon as the leash is in your left hand, take a few hurried steps forward, leading out with your left leg, encouraging your dog to hurry to catch up to you. When your dog has caught up to you, immediately place him and a sit. Calmly pet him and tell him what a good boy he is for a moment and then release him.

Swing: Begin with your dog sitting directly in front of you. Take the leash in your left hand; tell your dog to “swing” and then step backwards with your left leg. Your dog will follow the movement of your leg and walk to your side. Once your dog is almost behind you, take a few hurried steps forward, leading with your left leg. Your dog should turn towards you, then hurry to catch up with you. The moment when your dog is once again at your left side, place him in a sit. Calmly pet and praise him for a moment, and then release him.

Note: *You can use treats as rewards in addition to praise anytime it’s written “praise your dog.” If treats motivate your dog, by all means use them! 😊*

La Crosse County 4-H Dog Project
Beginning Obedience Class
Week 5 Homework

Sit STAY with Return: Continue to practice by starting in the basic position, walking straight out to the end of your 6 foot leash, before turning to face your dog for up to a minute and a half. Return to your dog after a minute, release and reward him gently so you do not excite him too much before your down stay. When you show your dog remember the sit and down stays are worth 30 points each! 60 points out of 200 can really make a difference in your dog's score! Practicing in busy areas, like your local park, will help prepare your dog for the fair environment, which will be very busy and distracting.

Down STAY with Return: Continue to practice by starting in the basic position, downing your dog, and walking straight out to the end of your 6 foot leash. Your dog will need to down for 3 minutes at the fair. Try to at least get two minutes this week. Return to your dog, release and reward him.

Stand: Begin in the basic position. Start with a treat in your right hand holding it in front of your dog's nose. Slowly pull the treat straight forward from the dog's nose and say "Stand." Your dog should recognize the command and stand up, following the movement of your hand. As soon as your dog is standing, reward him with the treat and place the leash under his belly like you did in week three. Tell your dog to "stay" and step in front of him. If your dog tries to sit, or move, steady his backend with the leash that is under him. Practice this when there are distractions around. Talk to one of your family members or a friend and have them come up to your dog without saying his name, and turn around and leave. If your dog does not move, return to the basic position and release him, giving him a treat. Once your dog has learned to stand still when someone walks up to him, try having them run their hand down his back once, and then walk away. Your dog should just stand still and wait for you to return to the basic position and release him before he moves. Remember, if you see your dog move at all, correct him, and possibly decrease the distractions in his environment until he can stand still consistently until your release him.

Formal Recall with Finish: Begin in the basic position. Tell your dog to "Sit-Stay," and walk out to the end of your six foot leash. Wait a moment and then call your dog by saying "Come!!!" in a happy and excited tone. Your dog should run towards you and sit in front of you, close enough for you to pet the top of his head. If necessary, guide him to sit straight by using a treat. *This week stand still as much as possible while you call your dog, but every once in a while, run backwards like you did in the Informal Recall, to keep your dog interested in the recall.* Once your dog is sitting in front of you, tell him to finish by giving him the "Round" or "Swing" command, depending on which you have been training your dog to perform. When your dog has successfully returned to the basic position, release him and reward with treats and playing.

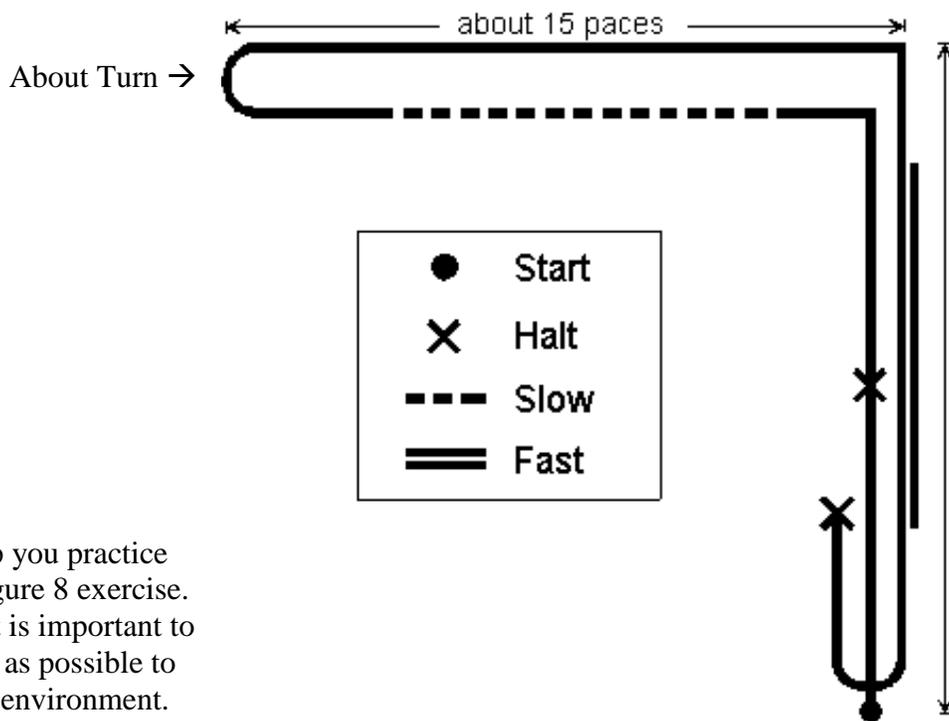
Heeling: Continue to practice your heeling at different locations and when you take your dog on his walk everyday. Make sure you practice all the different aspects of the heeling exercise, which includes: **Fast time, Slow time, Halt, About Turn, Right and Left turn.** Be attentive to your

foot work that we learned about in Week 4. Your dog should be sitting automatically when you stop, but if he is not, correct him quickly for not sitting when you stop.

Figure 8 with People: *Ask two friends to stand still about 8 feet apart with out looking, talking, or petting your dog. Use them in place of the chairs you used last week. Begin in the basic position, with one person positioned on your left, and the other on your right. Give the command “Heel,” lead out with your left foot, and walk around the left person, and then immediately walk to the right person, and walk around him. Your dog should walk close to the people without touching or sniffing them. During the exercise, talk happily to your dog, especially when your walk around the right person, and be very watchful while you walk past the left person, in case your dog would try to sniff or greet her. Practice stopping at random times as you walk around your friends. Remember! Your dog must sit every time you stop!*

La Crosse County 4-H Dog Project
 Beginning Obedience Class
 Week 6 Homework
Hand out: Score Sheets

Heeling: This week you need to polish your heeling pattern for the fair. Below is a diagram of the pattern the judge will ask you to complete. The judge may customize small details to what he or she personally prefers, (for example, ask to you halt at different places, or switch the slow or fast pace around) but for sure the judge will walk you in a “L” pattern, like what is drawn below. Remember you are still practicing this week, so if your dog makes a mistake, correct him, and when he fixes the problem, praise him. The second diagram is of the Figure 8. Try to practice this exercise with people as your posts this week. Remember your dog should not sniff or touch the people acting as posts for you!



Also be sure to practice:

Formal Recall with Finish,

Stand for Examination,

Sit Stay with Return,

Down Stay with a Return,

Recruit lots of your friends to help you practice your stand for examination and figure 8 exercise. The fair is fast approaching, and it is important to practice with as many distractions as possible to prepare your dog for the busy fair environment.

Be sure to carefully look at the score sheet handout so you are familiar with what the judge will be looking for during your performance.

