

Training Exercise for New Lisbon Raisers

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Staying on “Place”

- Interestingly, an important attribute for a guide dog is their ability to just chill out for extended periods of time.
- Lots of blind people have jobs where they sit at a desk in an office all day, so it's important that their guide dog can comfortably and quietly stay on their designated “Place” for hours at a time.
- While on Place for extended time periods, a dog can chew a bone or toy or they can just relax and take a nap.
- How long can your dog stay on “place” while you ignore them? 30 minutes? One hour? Two hours? More?
- The duration of time should increase with the dogs age. Young puppies will only stay for short periods of time, but older dogs should be able to stay for a few hours.
- Practice this in your cell by having your dog go to their “Place” and then relax on your bunk and read a book. Time how long the dog stays on Place before they start to get antsy or move away. Now you know the baseline from which to build upon.
 - NOTE: schedule this any time after the dog has eaten and gone potty so there won't be any reason for them to need to get up off their Place.
- If the dog gets off their Place, then give them the Place command so that they return, but do NOT praise and treat. We don't want to reward the behavior of getting off of Place without being released.
- Also, remember that the “Place” command also implies that once the dog goes to Place that they are expected to stay there. So, you do not need to also say “Stay”.
- Apply the training techniques used when you first taught the dog Place by praising and treating them when they stay there LONGER than the baseline duration of time. So, just before that amount of time anticipate that they

may get antsy and praise and treat to encourage them to stay on Place longer.

- You should be able to space out the amount of time for praising & treating for several minutes.
- Ideally, you want to increase the duration of time that the dog will stay on Place without having to praise and treat them.
- Practice every day and try to gradually increase the amount of time the dog stays on Place by a few minutes each day.

Collar Grabs

- It is important that dogs are comfortable having someone grab a hold of their collar.
- Collar grabs are an important training tool that can be used to correct undesirable behavior, which we'll discuss further in future lessons.
- Practice grabbing hold of your dog's collar and saying "got your collar" then give them a treat and let go of their collar. DO NOT pull, jerk or apply any tension to the collar.
- Practice this at a few random times throughout the day in different settings. It only takes a few seconds. Just do it once each time. The goal is to make it fun and unexpected for the dog.
- Also, practice doing this with someone else's dog and have them do it with your dog.
- The goal is that the dog should be comfortable and not react or pull away when anyone grabs their collar at any time.