



HEEL PART THREE

BEFORE YOU BEGIN









You have survived beginner behaviors and now you're ready for something harder. Welcome to Advanced behaviors! In these, your dog will be pushed hard to behave during distractions (some of which are very, very distracting!). Many of our commands have been broken up into multiple parts to make it easier for our owners and dogs to learn and enjoy themselves during the training sessions.

The advanced behaviors we will be learning can be frustrating to both dog and owner, so if you find yourself getting frustrated, please **do yourself a favor and end the training session with something simple**, like sit. Ending a session on a good note will make you feel better and encourage your dog as well. By this point, your dog should be well versed in basic commands and willing to respond to them quickly without always needing a treat for their efforts.



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Now that we've added turns to the Heel command, you should be noticing that your dog looks at you more while you practice. The third part of heel will help you finish up the command. By taking our dog outdoors or to busy, public locations, we can teach our dog to pay attention to us no matter what is going on. Our practice with distractions should enhance your dog's focus during this practice.

-  Take your dog to an outdoor location
-  Get your dog into the correct "finish" position
-  Tell your dog to heel and start with your left foot forward
-  Begin walking slowly at first, to ensure your dog remains in the correct position
-  **When your dog walks beside you and is actively looking at you**, make sure to click and praise their good behavior.
-  **If your dog is not looking at you**, use the "watch" command we learned in beginner class to get your dog's focus. Do not walk unless your dog is staying close to your side.
-  Stop at random spots throughout the heel and ask your dog to sit.
-  **If your dog moves ahead of you**, add the figure eights back into your heel until your dog falls back into the correct spot. Once they are in the correct position, continue with a straight path.

We are beginning to put all three aspects of the heel command together with this final step. Now you can begin taking longer walks with your dog in the Heel position. Don't be afraid to mix in some twists and turns to keep your dog on their toes.

Begin in your back yard and slowly build up to the front yard or a quiet, public location.

