Week 3 Cheat Sheet

The main things to remember from this class are:

1. Staying put: This week we looked at sitting for a longer period of time. Remember that this is new to the puppy. Make it easy to start with. Practise this around the home, before going outside or receiving food. This will help your puppy start to learn a little impulse control.
2. Puppy body language: Keep watching your puppy! If you can pick up the early signs that your pup is not entirely comfortable with a situation and help your puppy out, then he will learn to look to you for guidance. This is what being a leader is all about.
3. Reinforce the good stuff: Look for the good, calm, quiet behaviour and reinforce it. It is all too easy to ignore the puppy who is sitting politely, or lying quietly on her bed. Notice the good things happening and reinforce with praise and food, so that those good things happen more often in future!
4. Leash walking: Reinforce when a puppy is walking by your side. Stop if the puppy pulls, then call it back to your side and start again. Remember to hold that leash at your belly button!
5. Stopping pups from biting you: What do you want them to do instead? Get them to retrieve a toy or play tug and put those fangs to good use. Or ask them to ‘sit’ or ‘touch’ for reinforcement instead.

Homework

1. Practise ‘stay’: Start with a basic rock back and forth and try to work up to being able to turn and walk away a few steps. Remember to practise in different locations.
2. Practise ‘touch’: Targeting your hand or an object is a great way to position your dog without having to physically move or restrain them.
3. Practise ‘let’s go’- loose lead walking: Practise with no lead (still hold your hand at your belly button though!) in the backyard. Then practise with a lead in the back yard. Then just up and down the path or grass in front of your house. Remember to make it easy (less distractions) so your puppy can get it right.
4. Keep practising the other stuff too! Remember to keep practising sitting, lying down on cue, settling on a mat, being handled all over, and all the other wonderful things your puppy can do.