

Intermediate Life Skills

Welcome to Intermediate Life Skills! This class will involve three elements: Class time; reading handouts; practicing outside of class. You will get the best success if you do all three!

Goals for this class

- **Attention:** You will build your dog's attention skills, taking them to the next level and helping your dog pay attention to you in increasingly distracting environments.
- **Leave It:** We will focus on building leave it skills from a simple stationary object such as a treat or toy to more difficult things such as food on the ground, toys, people, movement and other dogs.
- **Rock Solid Stays:** You will work on increasing the length of time your dog can hold a sit and down, and we will add distance and new body positions.
- **Coming when called:** You will build your dog's skills for coming when called. In addition, you will gain the skills to continue your recall training with distractions.
- **Loose-Leash Walking:** Your dog will be better able to walk next to you on cue, in increasingly challenging situations.
- **Real World Rewards:** You will understand the different types of rewards, what your dog finds rewarding, and learn to use a variety of rewards throughout your day.
- **Settle and relax:** You will be able to cue your dog to go to a mat or lie on the ground and setting down for a period of time.

Reading materials are located at <https://www.gooddogsantacruz.com/handouts/>. Look for your class name for the page specific to your class.

Attention Fix

Coming When Called

Leave It

Stay 1, 2, 3, Advanced

Week One Practice

Attention: Read and practice day one and day two of the Attention Fix handout. Even if you feel like your dog has good attention, this will act as a powerful review and set the foundation for the rest of your class practice. (Go through all 7 days if you have the time.)

Leave it: Read pages 1-2 of the handout. Practice the Doggy Zen exercise. Try to move through so that your dog has a solid verbal cue and can perform with an open hand by our next class.

Coming when Called: Read through the Coming when Called handout.

1. This week, make every day game day! Each day, try spontaneous recall games. Be creative!
2. Classically condition your recall word (page 2, Step 1, First two bullets). Do two sessions each day with 10 awesome treats.

Sits, Down, Stay: Read stay 1 and stay 2. Practice adding more time to your stays and taking a few steps away. Aim for 100 percent success this week. If your dog gets up or moves—make it easier until they have the confidence to move to the next step.

Loose Leash Walking: Practice short patterns—walking in a circle, square, figure 8 or triangle. Aim for 100 percent success this week. Reward next to the seam of your pants.

When you are practicing, break it up with short bursts of play. Also, end each session with a few minutes of settle on your mat.

Please email or call if you have any questions! 831-431-0161, mardi@gooddogsantacruz.com