



Doberman Planet LLC
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Client Information:

Arthur
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Phone: [Redacted]
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Dog Information:

Name: Cleopatra (Aka 'Cleo')
Breed: Doberman Pinscher
Age: 8 Months
Sex: Female
Color: Red/Rust

Cleopatra's Training Plan

Session 8

Summary

- 1. Introduce the “Drop It” Command:** Add this to your training sessions (see below for more information).
- 2. Continue Luring Practice:** See below for more information.
- 3. Increase the Difficulty of the “Watch Me” Command:** See below for more information.
- 4. Work on General Leadership in the House:** See below for more information.
- 5. Practice Commands in More Distracting Environments:** Continue doing this in your training sessions, increasing the difficulty with time to challenge Cleo.

Owner Goals Until the Next Session

1. **Introduce 'Drop It' Command:** To leverage Cleopatra's high toy drive for training and play. This will help improve her responsiveness and reinforce controlled play. Practice this command at least once daily in low-distraction environments before gradually building to more distracting areas.
2. **Continue 'Luring' Practice:** Refine Cleopatra's ability to follow a lure into the correct position with precision, reinforcing her understanding of movement and control. Extend the duration and distance Cleo must follow the lure before receiving the reward. Challenge her with your movements and distractions.
3. **Increase Difficulty of the “Watch Me” Command:** Work towards removing the visual cue (pointing to your eyes) and getting Cleo accustomed to performing this command with the verbal command only.
4. **Reinforce Known Commands:** Keep practicing existing commands in different environments to build consistency and continuously challenge Cleo by requiring more precise execution of the commands with time to unlock her rewards (treat, toy, play, etc).
5. **Daily Practice:** Dedicate at least one 10-minute session (preferably 2-3 sessions) per day to reinforce the commands. End the session if Cleo's focus diminishes or becomes inconsistent. Use 'Yesssss!' as a marker word for positive reinforcement.
6. **Maintain Daily Leadership** - Continue reinforcing leadership behaviors, such as having her wait before entering doors, asking to come onto the couch, and not letting her run away from you with items she shouldn't have. Be careful not to entice her to jump up or perform other undesirable behaviors, even during play.

Key Training Concept: “Drop It” Command

Goal: To teach Cleopatra self-control and increase her responsiveness by releasing her grip on an item upon the owner’s request.

1. When Cleopatra has a relatively low-value toy in her possession, say "Drop It".
2. Immediately drop multiple treats within a second of saying the verbal cue, shifting your focus to the treat you just dispensed to appeal to the Doberman’s tendency to follow their owner’s cues.
3. When Cleo releases and goes for the treats you just dispensed, use the marker word "Yesssss!" and continue intense focus on the dispensed treats, urging her to get every last piece.
4. After all rewards have been retrieved by Cleo, allow her to go back to the original toy she was playing with and continue to engage with her using the toy. This teaches her that just because she lets go doesn’t mean she has lost the item forever. Instead, it simply means she will be rewarded by you for her efforts. This will help to ensure possessiveness doesn’t develop later in this process.
5. Reduce your rewards from multiple treats to one single treat sometime early this week as Cleo appears ready for this transition.
6. Gradually increase distractions and vary the toys or objects. Practice in different positions (sitting, standing, walking) and environments (outside, inside, in public, etc).

Tip: Don’t allow for ANY “failed” drop-it commands at this point. Don’t progress too fast, and don’t ask for her to “drop it” in daily situations just yet (such as if she has your hat and you know she’ll likely ignore the command). Each failed response from her to the command sets back her training, we want as many “wins” as possible right now.

Continue Working On

1. Puppy Nipping and Biting: As a follow-up to previous sessions, continue practicing the techniques for reducing nipping and biting, like redirection and calm corrections.

2. General Obedience Commands: Reinforce commands Cleo already knows, like "Sit," "Down," and "Off," focusing on responsiveness and consistency in various environments.

3. Building Food Motivation: Continue with structured meal times. Leave the bowl out for 15 minutes at each meal time before taking it away. Meals should be at a consistent time each day and food should not be added after the bowl is set down.

4. General Leadership in the House: Continue the normal practices you've been doing to reinforce your role as the leader in the house. Remember to be calm and consistent with your responses to negative behavior. Don't show emotions when separating her. Show her that the same negative behavior from her has the same response from you every-single-time. When key negative behaviors are demonstrated by Cleo, your response should be 100% reliable and predictable or you cannot expect her responses to be.

Remember

If you have any questions at any time, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to support you and Cleopatra every step of the way to ensure her success!

Training Details

Marker Word for Positive Reinforcement

- Use "Yessss!" as a marker to indicate Cleo has performed the desired behavior and positive reinforcement is coming.

Drop It Command ("Drop It") (NEW)

- See section above.

Watch Me Command ("Watch Me") (Updated)

- Say "Watch Me" and attempt to gain the desired behavior without pointing to your eyes. To increase the chances of being more successful, try this in the middle of a string of successful "Watch Me" instances during a training session.
- When Cleo makes eye contact, use "Yessss!" to mark the positive behavior and reward her.
- Gradually increase the duration she must hold eye contact before rewarding.
- Progress at a speed that ensures she's successful as close to 100% of the time as possible. If she fails with this command a few times, decrease the difficulty and distractions.

Luring

- Hold a treat in your left hand at Cleo's eye level and her leash in your right hand. You should maintain a slack leash at all times.
- Guide her into position. Her ear should be at your left hip.
- Walk a few steps and only reward Cleo once she maintains the correct position.
- Gradually increase the time and distance Cleo must follow the lure before slowly releasing your grip on the treat and allowing her to receive it from your hand.
- Start in low-distraction environments and build up to more distracting situations.

Leave It Command (“Leave It”) (Updated)

- Present a low-value treat in a closed fist and say "Leave It."
- Wait until Cleo stops sniffing your hand, then mark the behavior with "Yessss!" and reward with a higher-value treat, never allowing her to get the low-value treat.
- Gradually increase the challenge by opening your hand, leaving the treat on the floor, stepping away from the treat, etc.
- Only progress to the next level once she masters the previous step. Never allow her to get the treat you tempted her with or it will reinforce that negative behavior.

Come Command (“Come Come”)

- Use this command to get Cleo to come to you and sit down.
- Start in a low-distraction environment, using a leash if necessary.
- Reward her for coming to you and sitting down immediately.
- Gradually practice in more distracting environments, like the park.

Stay Command (“Hold”)

- Teach Cleo to stay in one place until released.
- If she walks away before you give the release command, reset her back to the same spot calmly, and without any verbal interaction.
- Start practicing this in more distracting environments.
- Start with short distances and durations, gradually increasing them.
- Reward Cleo when she successfully stays until you give the release command.

Command Overview for Cleopatra

Below are the specific commands we have chosen for Cleopatra, along with the desired behaviors and what we expect from her when each command is given:

1. **"Watch Me"**
 - **Desired Behavior:** When you say "Watch Me" she should maintain eye contact and await further instructions.
2. **"Come Come"**
 - **Desired Behavior:** When you say "Come Come," Cleopatra should approach you directly and sit down in front of you, ready for further instructions.
3. **"Hold"**
 - **Desired Behavior:** When you say "Hold" while holding up a closed fist, Cleopatra should remain in place until you give the release command.
4. **"Sit"**
 - **Desired Behavior:** When you say "Sit" while pointing all your fingers to the sky, Cleopatra should promptly sit down.
5. **"Down"**
 - **Desired Behavior:** When you say "Down" with a flat hand motioning toward the ground, Cleopatra should lie down in a calm and relaxed manner.
6. **"Ok"**
 - **Desired Behavior:** When you say "Ok," Cleopatra is free from her previous command and may move or perform other tasks.
7. **"Off"**
 - **Desired Behavior:** When you say "Off," Cleopatra should immediately stop jumping up or remove herself from the object or person she is on.
8. **"Leave It"**
 - **Desired Behavior:** When you say "Leave It," Cleopatra should immediately stop focusing on whatever object, person, or animal she is focused on and divert focus to you. Leave it means she is never to touch something.
9. **"Drop It"**
 - **Desired Behavior:** When you say "Drop It," Cleopatra should immediately release whatever object is in her mouth and focus on you. Drop it means she needs to release an object for now but may get it later.

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