

## *Classic Heritage Golden Retrievers* **Puppy Training Info**

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### **Commands that Your Puppy is Familiar With:**

\*Our trainers and ourselves use a “built in” Stay command. This means that you do not have to say one command, and “stay” after, we expect your pup to hold that command until we give them their release word. *In short, stay is implied but not said as to not throw too many words at the puppy at once.*

- “SIT”
- “DOWN” (for lay down)
- “OFF” (for get off of something)
- “LOOK” (Word used to ask a puppy to give you their attention, and look at you.  
Especially important to use before starting a training session and also during, to gain attention.)
- “DRESS” (We use the term dress to ask your puppy to help guide their head through their harness, so they are ready for a training session, walk, or playtime.)
- “PLACE” (we use the word place and point to something (like a dog bed or cot) to indicate that we want the pup or dog to go to that place.)
- “COME” (recall back to you - this command can sometimes be tough to master, but is so important! Work, work, work at it! When you use this command, sound as exciting as possible, look fun, use treats, clap your hands, etc.)
- “HEEL” (while heel can also be a command that needs practice, and continuous work, it is such an important command to master and helps you and your puppy in the long run. We will make sure to go over this with you, and make sure you feel comfortable starting the command, and how to take the next steps with this command.)
- “LEAVE IT” (say the command, guide your pup or dog away from the object they are supposed to leave, then ask them to do something as simple as sit or down, and reward your dog for the good behavior! It is important to reward good behavior, and to understand the timing.)
- “WAIT” (Not to be confused with stay, as we do not use the word stay. Instead, wait is said often when your pup wants to head out the door or wants to gobble up their food, but they need to wait on your command.)
- “FREE” (release word from any command)

**Supportive Training Cues/Markers:**

- “YES!” and/or CLICKER (Used as a positive marker word for any time the puppy/dog is providing good behavior. Get your high pitched, happy voice out for this one! It is also important to mark behavior early and quickly, be sure to ask us and our trainers about when you should be marking behavior with yes’s and no’s.)
- “NO” (use the word no in a very calm manner, as a verbal correction to let them know that was not the behavior you were looking for and/or when they break commands.)

**Things to keep in mind:**

- Have fun! Be upbeat and energized.
- Keep it short and simple.
- Do not repeat commands over and over again (ask us what we mean, and why!)
- If your pup is losing their focus, have them do one more simple command, such as “Sit,” reward them, release them, and end the training session. It is important that you end the training session and not your pup/dog.
- Voice inflection is a great and easy tool to use. It helps your pup understand what you want and when you are marking behaviors.
- Don’t be stingy with treats in a new environment and in training sessions (within reason). Once you get it down, you can also incorporate toys, treats, high value items, verbal praise, pets, and more for your dog as rewards, etc. This might be a surprise to some, but Golden Retrievers are very food motivated!...Kidding, I don’t think anyone is surprised there.
- *Set the rules from day one and be consistent!!!* Golden Retrievers are very smart dogs, and they do know the rules and commands that they have been working on with us, but like most dogs they are going to see if YOU know the rules and will enforce them. Puppies might think: “If it worked once I can do it again. If it doesn’t work each time I try, I will give up and understand the boundaries.”

*Good luck to you and your family on this exciting new adventure, with your new furry family member. All of us at CHGR are rooting for you and your pup, and don't forget that we are still here for you after you bring your puppy/dog home. We are happy to help and support you when you might need it.*

*Thank you!*

*- CHGR Team*