



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Puppy Raising Department

Emergency Lure Technique

Raisers should always be aware of their environment and try to avoid situations the puppy may not be prepared to experience. They should also quickly react to situations where the puppy may become overly stimulated and require support and control.

No matter how careful a puppy raiser is, they will sometimes find themselves in situations the puppy is not prepared for. Sometimes the best handling option is to remove the puppy from the situation as quickly and as positively as possible. A preferable option is to go around and give a wide berth to the situation. Another option is to turn back and take an alternative route.

A third option is to use an Emergency Lure through and past the situation. A raiser may have reasons to use the Emergency Lure a couple of times per week at a maximum. If it is being used often, then the raiser needs to plan outings more carefully and be more observant of situations ahead when out socializing. The raiser should also consult the Socialization Guide to choose appropriate settings for the age and experience of the individual puppy.

The Emergency Lure is not a training technique. Puppies *will not learn desired behavior* from the Emergency Lure. The Emergency Lure simply prevents them from practicing inappropriate behaviors when the raiser cannot control the environment.

Video reference: Emergency Lure Technique <http://youtu.be/juDEbnH6MWQ>

Examples of situations where the Emergency Lure may be utilized are:

- In a tight space with major distractions, such as other dogs, very close by. A vet's waiting room is a typical scenario (young puppies should be carried in and out of veterinary practices).
- Being mobbed by a group of children, or even a persistent individual, when the puppy does not have enough self-control to greet in a calm manner.

“Pezzing” (Nonstop reward delivery)

Raisers can prepare for such scenarios by first practicing the skill of “pezzing”. (The term was coined by a CFR who likens feeding multiple pieces of kibble from one hand to a Pezz dispenser!) Raiser skill with “pezzing” will result in less food dropped and a more efficient exit from the situation.

Practice “pezzing” with one hand, without the puppy, until you can do it smoothly. Practice walking and “pezzing” without the puppy, imagining your left hand is holding onto the leash and your right hand is at the puppy’s mouth. It is OK to practice a couple of times with the puppy so that you know how to do it if/when the need arises.

“Pezzing” Practice

- Hold five to eight pieces of food cupped in your right hand (only as many as you can control). Slide a piece of kibble toward your fingertips with your thumb and hold it between fingertips and thumb. That’s the piece you will feed into the puppy’s mouth. For practice without the puppy, feed one kibble at a time into a cup. Slide another piece forward and repeat. Increase your speed of delivering one at a time but stay in control of the kibble.
- Your hand will stay on the puppy’s muzzle the whole time you are pezzing to keep the puppy focused on the food. If you draw your hand away, the puppy will likely turn its focus on the situation you are trying to move through. Keep the puppy fully occupied with the food, literally touching the front of the muzzle.

Decision - Exit the Situation

When suddenly faced with circumstances beyond your control, where safety or the ability to prevent negative behavior is a concern:

- Grab multiple kibbles from your bait bag as you hold a very short leash to gain control of the puppy’s head (but don’t keep the leash uncomfortably tight.)
- Put your kibble holding hand at the front of the puppy’s muzzle and start pezzing as you move quickly away from the distraction.
- Keep moving as you feed. Ignore any dropped food, just keep moving.
- If you feel like you are going to run out of kibble in your hand, keep hold of the last piece and let the pup lick and nibble at it as you move away. If a moment to grab more kibble presents itself, do so quickly and resume “pezzing” and moving.
- If the distraction is a person, pleasantly explain to them that your puppy is in training and can’t visit right now. Usually when they see the puppy being fed, most people will respect that you’re “training” him.

Once you are safely away from the distraction give the puppy a chance to learn and resume training again. The puppy needs to understand how to *earn kibble* by giving desired behavior such as loose leash walking or calm behavior.

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