

Paws In Public – Level 1: Groundwork

Welcome to Paws In Public Level 1 – Groundwork!

This introductory level is designed to help you and your dog build a solid foundation of obedience skills in calm, low-distraction environments. We focus on developing essential behaviours such as sit stay, down stay, recall, loose lead walking, polite greetings, and basic impulse control.

This level is perfect for dogs of all ages and breeds who are ready to begin or refresh their training. It's all about creating a clear line of communication between you and your dog and laying the groundwork for real-life success.

In Level 1, we focus on:

- Teaching clear cues and consistent markers to support learning
- Building reliable responses to basic commands like **recall, loose lead walking, and stay**
- Encouraging calm focus and engagement in low-distraction settings
- Practicing polite greetings and simple leave-it skills
- Helping your dog learn to settle calmly on a mat

Training Tips for Level 1:

- Keep sessions short and enjoyable
- Be consistent with cues and rewards
- Practice in quiet areas to help your dog succeed
- Celebrate small wins and progress at your dog's pace

This level sets the stage for future success—calm, confident, and focused dogs start here!

Level 1: Groundwork- Award Sheet

Exercise	Description	Keep Trying	Date Passed:
Markers	Understand how markers work		
Luring	To guide your dog into position or movement		
Sit Stay	Sit for a short duration with handler close		
Down Stay	Down for a short time with minimal distraction		
Recall	Recall on lead from short distance		
Loose Lead Walking	Walk calmly on lead in low-distraction area		
Settle on Mat	Settle for a few minutes with handler nearby		
Leave Food/Toys	Leave basic treats or toys on cue		
Greeting Manners	Calm sit before greeting a familiar person		
Look (Focus)	Respond to "look" with minimal distraction		

Celebrating Progress

Once all tasks in the Foundation Level have been successfully passed, you and your dog will **qualify** and receive a **certificate and rosette** as a reward for your hard work and progress.

It's a great way to celebrate your journey together and marks the beginning of even more fun and learning in future levels!

Date Passed:	
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Congratulations! You've successfully passed Level 1 — you can now move on to the next level of your training journey!