

Task Review

Easier Tasks

Finding neighborhood dog friends to increase exposure to socialization and decrease loneliness of own dog

Quinn is a full-time undergraduate student who just came to study at the University of Washington and moved into an apartment in Capitol Hill. Quinn has a 1.5-year-old Australian Shepherd named Presley. Quinn and Presley used to have close access to a dog park in the International District, which had a regular group of dogs on weekends and weeknights. Since moving, Presley has not met any dog friends because there is no dog park nearby and Quinn does not own a car. Quinn has noticed some signs of loneliness such as chewed slippers and excessive barking when he comes home. To combat this, Quinn has been taking Presley on walks in the neighborhood but Presley gets easily overwhelmed in meeting other dogs on walks. Because of this, Quinn actively avoids other owners and dogs on walks. Quinn wants to stop avoiding other dogs but is not sure how to gauge whether an upcoming interaction will be positive. However, he wants Presley to have a regular group of friends as he did before and is slowly reintegrating Presley into the Capitol Hill dog community by walking near other owners and dogs more frequently.

Avoiding improper or provoking interactions from strangers with dogs

Olivia is a former research assistant and experienced dog owner, who owns a 2-year-old mixed Chihuahua named Coco. Coco, as a young and small dog, is nervous around people and other bigger dogs. However, every time Olivia takes a walk with Coco in the neighborhood, strangers on the walkway come over and try to pet Coco. Coco becomes very nervous, panics, and barks when strangers approach and stare at her. For example, one time Coco got so scared that she slipped through her harness and ran away from the other person. Olivia had to find Coco and change the type of harness to a more secure one. Therefore, Olivia tries to avoid walking her dogs near strangers. She thinks people around her neighborhood are knowledgeable about dogs, but she prefers others to ask for permission before petting the dogs because of her dogs' nervousness.

Reducing over-excitement of the dog in presence of large crowds

Adrian is a computer science lecturer at the University of Washington who owns a 2-year-old 100lb Saint Bernard named Eeyore. During finals week, Adrian likes to bring Eeyore to the Quad on campus to provide his students with an opportunity to de-stress before exams. Adrian and Eeyore arrive in the afternoon by Light Rail and quickly gather a crowd of eager students in the Quad. Eeyore always becomes very excited when engaging with students, especially with his former dog watcher, who is a TA of Adrian's. Eeyore tends to jump on his

dog watcher and overwhelm some students. Adrian currently tries to calm Eeyore by grabbing him and being assertive. Over time, Eeyore adjusts to the crowd of students and calms down.

Harder Tasks

Preventing dogs with disabilities from following other people

Haribo, an accountant, owns Sushi, a 13.5-year-old Maltese. Sushi is currently deaf and partially blind because of her age. Haribo must be very conscious of Sushi's disabilities on outings to the dog park with her 3 other dogs. For instance, when Sushi gets too far away from Haribo, Sushi will end up following another owner. Haribo must avoid taking Sushi to the dog park during popular hours, where Sushi can get easily confused. Haribo keeps treats on her at all times in order to get Sushi's attention and help safely retrieve Sushi without alarming other dogs or owners. Haribo currently avoids grabbing Sushi when retrieving her because she doesn't want to alarm Sushi either. However, Haribo wants to keep Sushi socialized and interacting with other dogs and does not want Sushi and her other dogs to miss out on social time by only going to the park during downtime.

Reducing territorial behaviors of own dogs

Molly is a retired professor who owns two small, mixed-breed dogs aged 13 and 2 named Muppet and Missy, respectively. Every day in the morning, she lets both of her dogs out in the backyard to relieve themselves and leaves the backyard door open so that the dogs are able to come in and out of the house as they please. However, she's aware that her dogs tend to bark aggressively when other people or dogs walk by the backyard fence, which stresses other dogs and owners. She wants to try to curb this territorial behavior especially since they live near a park that is frequented by many dog owners. Currently, whenever she hears barking, she calls both dogs home by name and rewards them with treats to distract them. She knows she is only rewarding her dogs' behavior of returning home when called, which does not address the territorial behavior directly but she is not sure how to reduce the barking and aggression.

Identifying compatible dogs as a permanent companion for current dog

Abby is an avid embroiderer who owns a mixed rat terrier, Joan. Abby is living with her husband and two daughters in Seattle. They are planning to adopt another dog to accompany Joan. Joan is very shy and doesn't get along with a lot of dogs since she was isolated as a puppy due to her disease. Abby takes Joan to the pet shelter to get in touch with other dogs in order to find the best partner for Joan. Joan needs to smell and interact with all the dogs in the shelter even though there are some types of dogs that she clearly doesn't feel comfortable around. Abby wishes Joan doesn't have to go through that and wishes that they knew what types of dogs Joan would or would not get along well with before visiting the pet shelter. Eventually, after a long time of selection, Joan finds her favorite buddy Lola, who's a Corgi. Joan likes to spend more time next to Lola compared to other dogs and they keep playing with each other. Now Lola has been in her new family for a year.