**Chapter 15: Suggested or Moving Turns**

A suggested turn is a turn made while the guide dog team is already in motion. What you are essentially asking the dog to do is to turn “at the next available opening” in the direction you are cueing the dog to go. This could be down a path or a hallway, toward a door or a similar target.

Suggested turns are most successful when you are asking the dog to turn at a pre-patterned or familiar location, i.e. the path leading to the door at the White Plains Lounge. Let’s say you are working back to the lounge; you know the path leading back to the house is somewhere along the block on your right side. When you feel you are close, the first thing you should do is to steady your dog and slow your pace slightly. Then start to use a slight hand-signal and verbally cue the dog in the direction you want to go, “Juno, right..... right.... right...” When you feel the dog start to make the change in direction, praise your dog and turn with them. There is no set number of times you should say the cue but you will most likely need to say it 3 or 4 times depending on how accurate you are when you start the process.

Things to keep in mind when making a suggested turn:

* Speed is a factor! The faster a team moves down the sidewalk the more challenging it will be for the dog to make the turn while in motion; especially when they need to cut to the right in front of you.
* Following position can play a part. If you are trying to make a suggested right turn, maybe open your shoulders to the right to give the dog more room to move across your line of travel. Or if you are making a suggested left turn, make sure you aren’t lagging behind as you will need to move up toward your dog’s head to stay in a good following position throughout the turn!
* Timing is everything- you will need to command or cue the dog in advance to the turn, at least several paces before the actual turning location.
* One thing at a time- it will be tempting to stack commands especially when a target is close to the suggested turn. Make sure you get the change in direction first before cueing “To the door” or other targets.

Suggested turns are very useful and can keep the flow going on a route. Some people find them to be particularly helpful when traveling down hallways and picking up intersecting pathways.

Once your guide is patterned to a given route which involves suggested turns the dog may indicate the turn is approaching by slowing or turning slightly- you should remain aware of this and still be willing to cue the dog appropriately. This will help to keep the dog’s work consistent.

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