

THE SIT... STAY... FOR CONTROL

Now we are ready to add stay!

Stay means don't move from the position until I come back and release you.

If you have consistently used your conditioned reinforcer to signal to your dog that he is getting a reward, he is already learning to stay.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Signal your dog to sit on your left side.
2. At this time, lean down or have someone help you and place a 3 or 4 small treats 2 feet or so in front of your dog. When he attempts to get up and get the treats gently put him back in position until he stops trying to get up. This may take awhile the first time – be patient! Let him figure it out.
3. When he sits for a few seconds without trying to get up, reach for one of the treats with your right hand. If your dog remains in position, quickly use your bridge and pick up a treat and give it to him, praising softly. Help him stay in position with your left hand. As long as he stays in position, repeat this until the treats are gone. Give your CR and release.
4. If your dog struggles or attempts to get up when you pick up the treat, immediately drop the treat back on the floor. Quietly reposition him until he is sitting on his own again. When he is again sitting on his own, continue step 3.
5. When you have delivered all the treats from the floor, continue to praise and rub for a few more seconds. Give your CR and treat.
6. When your dog can stay dependably with you right beside him, put the treats a little further away. Walk out and get the treats one at a time. Remember to also use soft praise and his favorite pats to reward him for staying. If at any time he starts to get up or lie down, put the treat back and reposition him. Don't praise or pat.
7. Gradually remove the treats from the floor. Vary your primary reinforcement. Sometimes use really good rubs and pats, sometimes praise only, sometimes treats and praise. Sometimes put the treats back on the floor. Be variable and interesting.
8. When your dog is staying dependably in a quiet area, begin to add distractions... other pets, children, doorbells, toys and anything else you can think of. When you introduce distractions, use higher level reinforcements. Reinforce more often. If he attempts to move, stop reinforcing, reposition him, wait quietly until he's sitting on his own and then start reinforcing again.
9. When your dog is staying dependably, you can add the word stay after your sit signal, if you wish.