



Stay

The stay is an important exercise to teach our dogs. It can teach patience and can be potentially lifesaving, especially if a dog slips the lead while next to a busy road or other hazard. The stay means stay exactly where you are for a period of time, until I physically come and release you. The hand signal for the stay is an open palm, facing towards the dog, like a stop sign. Clients must always come all the way back to their dogs when they mark and pay, otherwise the dog will hear the marker and run to their owners for a reward, breaking the stay position. Start this exercise with a sit-stay, and later the dogs will learn a drop-stay.

Exercise:

Hold several treats in your hand behind your back. Dogs are sitting.

1. Show the dog your hand signal for one second (an open palm facing towards the dog, fingers spread) and then bring your hand back to your side. Do NOT use a cue word. Mark and reward.
2. Once you can see the dog is not moving and is solid in duration of the exercise then do three more adding in the word stay.
3. From here the client is now asked to say the word stay and give the hand signal then stand up quietly and sit back down. If the dog does not move mark and reward.
4. Repeat step 3 then add in -Move your feet up and down on the spot for 1 second, then mark and reward your dog.
5. Show the hand signal again, and this time move your feet up and down on the spot for 2 seconds, then mark and reward your dog.
6. If your dog has been successful at least twice, say the word "stay" as you show your hand signal again. Move up and down on the spot for 3 seconds, then mark and reward your dog.

Drop Stay

We are now going to work on the drop stay position. It is an easier, more comfortable position to leave your dogs in for an extended period. All stays mean stay exactly where you are until I physically release you. Your dog has now some concept of what stay means. We can work with the hand and cue together.



Exercise

1. Ask your dog to lie down.
2. Add in the word stay and hand signal.
3. Wait 3 seconds then mark and reward.
4. Repeat step 3 above but now standing up and sitting back down. Mark and reward.
5. Repeat step 3 then add in -Move your feet up and down on the spot for 1 second, then mark and reward.
6. Repeat step 5 and this time move your feet up and down on the spot for 2 seconds, then mark and reward
7. If your dog has been successful at least twice, say the word “stay” as you show your hand signal again. Move up and down on the spot for 3 seconds, then mark and reward your dog. If your dog breaks the stay, go back to the last point of success and work at that step for a little longer before moving on

Once your dog is working autonomously with their Drops at home, In their yard and backyard with distractions and no food present, please start to slowly take your dog out to more places to practice.