



Teaching your dog to stay



Stays are the basic positions (Sit, Down and Stand) and training your dog to be left for a desired time and distance in your chosen position and place.

To train your dog to stay is very simple but you need to have lots of patience and you must always be consistent.

Points to remember are:-

- Always reinforce your command before you leave your dog's side.
- Make sure your lead is slack at all times
- If your dog moves, take it back to the exact place where it was and do the exercise again
- If your dog continues to move, reduce your distance away and wait for less time
- Build up the length of time you expect the dog to stay very gradually
- Give the dog a chance to succeed – then PRAISE!
- Always move away from your dog with your furthest away foot, this will make the dog less likely to follow
- When practising always attempt variations, step to the side, step to the front, step to the back etc (do all of these as separate exercises at first)
- Practice in different environments, every dog will be perfect at home as there are no distractions. Practice everywhere!!

Practice stays in short bursts like this:-

Play with your dog and, after a minute, bring it to your side, get it into your desired stay position then give your command.

Reinforce your command (anything of your choice) and move away with your furthest away foot.

Return to your dog after a few seconds and praise it in the position.

Break off and play!

Wait for a few minutes and then try another stay so you have a good combination of play and obedience.

Always remember to praise your dog!

If your dog is over excitable then praise gently and quietly!

If your dog is quite laid back then over exaggerate your praise!