



## Adding Distance To Stay

Keep practising what you have learned in Week 1 - 5 this week.

We have taught your dog to Stay before and we also required your dog to Stay on his bed with distance, duration and distractions, but now we need your dog to be able to do this anywhere, not just on his bed. We are going to show your dog you are reliable. In small increments we are moving farther and farther away from him while he must remain where he is, until you release him.

### *Exercise*

- ❖ Start with your dog in the Heeling position.
- ❖ Tell your dog to "Stay" and use your open palm hand signal.
- ❖ Now calmly take a step forward. It is important that you use the leg farthest away from your dog when you take your first step, as opposed to the leg closest to him.
- ❖ After one step, turn toward your dog. You are now facing your dog.
- ❖ As he is staying, calmly praise your dog verbally.
- ❖ Turn back and step backwards to be beside your dog again.
- ❖ Click/mark the behaviour and reward your dog and release him.

Repeat this a few times. He must remain sitting and stay where you left him. As you can see you only release him when you come back to him. Then:

- ❖ Again, have your dog in the Heeling position and tell him to "Stay" and use your open palm hand signal.
- ❖ Calmly take a step forward. Use the leg farthest away from your dog when you take your first step.
- ❖ After one step, turn toward your dog. Calmly praise him for staying.
- ❖ Then calmly back up one step, away from your dog, calmly praise him.
- ❖ Calmly take a few more steps back. Try to get to at least 10 feet away from your dog. He must remain where he is.
- ❖ Then slowly move towards your dog again till you are in front of him.
- ❖ Then turn around and step beside him.
- ❖ Click/mark the behaviour, reward and then release him.

### *Troubleshooting*

Always remember to go back to your dog to release him out of a "Stay". Excitement is what often breaks a "Stay" command. So don't excite your dog too much or he will have a hard time remaining in this position.

### *Goal*

To get your dog to "Stay" where he is even when you walk away from him. He must stay there till you return and release him.

### *Practical application*

You are showing your dog reliability: that you will come back for him to be released. Only move on to the next exercise when he is successfully completing this consistently.





## Adding Duration, Distance & Distractions To Stay

Now that your dog is successfully and consistently staying on the same spot when you walk away from him as learned in the previous exercise, we are going to add duration and distractions for this final exercise. After this exercise your dog should be able to remain in the "Stay" position while you leave the room and no matter the distractions, remain where he is, till you release him.

### *Exercise*

- ❖ Start with your dog in the Heeling position.
- ❖ Have a toy or tennis ball in your hand.
- ❖ Tell your dog to "Stay" and use your open palm hand signal.
- ❖ Now calmly take a step forward. It is important that you use the leg farthest away from your dog when you take your first step, as opposed to the leg closest to him.
- ❖ After one step, turn toward your dog. You are now facing your dog.
- ❖ As he is staying, calmly praise your dog verbally.
- ❖ Slowly take a few steps back, away from your dog.
- ❖ Calmly bounce the ball or use a squeaky toy.
- ❖ As your dog is staying, start walking around him while bouncing the ball or squeaking the toy. He can look at you and follow you with his head, but he **MUST** remain where he is.
- ❖ You can even throw some toys around him trying to distract him.
- ❖ Step back beside your dog.
- ❖ Click/mark the behaviour and reward him and then release him.

Always remember to go back to your dog to release him out of a "Stay". Over time you should be able to freely walk around your dog, bouncing a ball at least 10 feet away for a few minutes. If your dog is up for it, you can increase the difficulty even more by leaving the room, so you are out of sight for a few seconds and then come back to your dog and releasing him.

### *Troubleshooting*

Make sure you always praise your dog - even during the exercise as he is staying on the same spot. Have patience; don't excite your dog too much in the beginning. You can increase the difficulty by goofing off a bit and see if he can still "Stay" where he is.

### *Goal*

To have your dog "Stay" where he is, for however long and no matter what distractions happen around him, till you go back to him and release him.

### *Practical application*

Hurray! Your dog can now "Stay" somewhere for a while, so you can do something while he remains where he is. Don't push the duration too long, or he will release himself and disobey you. Always go back to him to release him.





## **Final Exam**

Congratulations! You made it to the end of this Advanced Training Class.

Your dog has learned a lot over the last few weeks as we expanded on some commands learned in the Beginner Training Classes as well as learned some new commands. It's okay if it took you a little longer than you wanted. The trick is to set some time apart for you and your dog daily and spend some quality time one-on-one training.

The consistent training and the repetition of the commands over a 6 week period is what makes him learn it very well. If you skip days, or even weeks, you will find your dog often has trouble with commands he should have known from previous lessons. Whether you practise in a live classroom with other people and their dogs, you still have to practise at home.

Looking back to the beginning of the Advanced Training Class the exercises seem to have blended together. It may even feel like you keep repeating the same thing over and over. That is because we slowly increased the difficulty of a few important commands and expanded on it over the last few weeks.

Alright! Are you ready for your Final Exam?

Rehearse all the commands you have learned over the last few weeks with your dog. Then when you think you are ready, ask some family, friends, neighbours to come and check out how your dog is performing. This will be the real test. Is your dog truly ready? Have them stand aside, while you perform your commands.

When your dog performs all the commands successfully and your audience approves, you can print out your diploma and put your dogs' name on it.

Congratulations, your dog now has completed his Advanced Training Certificate!

What's next? Well, most people are satisfied with what they have accomplished up to this point and find that their dog behaves the way they want them to now. Some people like to continue with Master Training Classes and some will even continue with Agility Classes. Others on the other hand continue to train their dogs in Search-and-Rescue or even train them to be Guide dogs or dogs trained for people with special needs or disabilities.

For now, this is where our Curious Puppies Training course ends. We thank you for having taken our course and wish you and your dog all the best and hope you will make many happy memories together!

- Berry van Loenen

