



Lay Down

Keep practising what you have learned in Week 1 and 2 this week.

Lay down is one of the most basic commands you can teach your dog. It will be used a lot throughout his lifetime. I like to use the term "Lay Down", rather than "Down", as the latter one is often used to correct unwanted behaviour when they stand up at the kitchen counter or table, or when they are not supposed to be on the couch etc.

Exercise

- ❖ Have a treat between your index finger and thumb.
- ❖ Make your dog sit.
- ❖ Hold the treat close to their nose so they know you have something they want.
- ❖ Move the treat towards the ground with your palm towards the ground and say "Lay Down".
- ❖ Their head should follow the treat and their body should move to a laying down position.
- ❖ Then move the treat to their back end and as they follow the treat with their head their body completely slides into the lay down position.
- ❖ Use the clicker or your marker word, to mark the correct behaviour.
- ❖ Reward your dog with the treat and release your dog.

Troubleshooting

If you find that your dog is having a hard time doing this, you may have to split this exercise up in smaller steps. First have your dog follow the treat and lower its head. Mark that behaviour and reward them. Once they consistently do that, try to have them lay down by luring their head towards their back end. Yes, sometimes you have to nudge them a little bit, even to a point where you have to gently push them into a lay down position. Once they lie down, mark that behaviour and reward them. Have patience; slowly they will learn that they now only get rewarded when they completely lay down.

Goal

To have your dog go from sit to a relaxed lay down position. We are not working on duration yet, so it's fine if they stay in that position for only a few seconds.

Practical application

Lay down is often used to have your dog calm down, or to be out of the way because you are doing something else. When you have guests over your dog doesn't bother them too much when you tell your dog to lie down.





Take It & Leave It

We are going to teach your dog to leave something when he's not allowed to have it yet. Only when you give the okay, he's allowed to take it. You may find that it is easier for your dog to sit for this exercise, but it isn't necessary.

Exercise

- ❖ Have a treat in the palm of your hand.
- ❖ Hold it right in front of your dogs' nose.
- ❖ Tell him to "Leave it".
- ❖ When he moves and wants to get the treat, close your hand quickly.
- ❖ Right away say "Leave It".
- ❖ Once he is settled open your hand again.
- ❖ Tell him to "Leave it".
- ❖ When he leaves it, tell him "Watch me" to have your dog make eye contact.
- ❖ When he looks at your eyes for permission, say "Take it" and let him have the treat.
- ❖ Immediately click/mark the behaviour as he reaches out and takes the treat.
- ❖ Praise your dog for doing it right.

Once your dog understands the Take it & Leave it commands let's move on.

- ❖ Place a treat or toy on the floor in front of your dog - you will need your foot ready to block. Tell him to "Leave it".
- ❖ When he moves and wants to get the treat/toy, cover it quickly with your foot. Right away say "Leave It".
- ❖ When he leaves it, tell him "Watch me" to have your dog make eye contact. When he looks at your eyes for permission, say "Take it" and let him have the treat/toy.
- ❖ Immediately click/mark the correct behaviour and praise your dog.

Troubleshooting

Don't make them wait too long in the beginning. As your dog gets better you can make him wait longer before you give him the "take it" command. Build it up slowly. You may have to practice without the "watch me" command first to have your dog understand the "leave it" and "take it" commands. Once he learned this you can start adding "watch me" before "taking it".

Goal

To have your dog take a treat or toy on command from your hand or off the floor as well as to leave it when he doesn't have the permission (yet) to take it.

Practical application

Teaching your dog to leave something can be very useful when you don't want it to end up in their mouth. Some things aren't theirs, so leave it! On the other hand having your dog "take it" can be useful when you DO want something to end up in their mouth.

