



## Fading The Lure

Keep practising what you have learned in Week 1-4 this week.

Up to this point you have used a lot of treats to get your dog to perform the commands. You may have already done this, but it's time to slowly start weaning your dog off some treats. It's time he starts to do the commands without getting a treat for it every time. Your dog will learn that he will not always get rewarded with a treat. Verbal praise and touch should always be a reward for the life of your dog.

### *Exercise*

- ❖ Start weaning your dog off of treats by skipping every now and then.
- ❖ Sometimes he has to perform an exercise 3-4 times before he gets a treat. Switch it up!
- ❖ Eventually no treats should be needed to accomplish the exercise.

### *Troubleshooting*

If your dog has trouble doing a particular exercise you may have to bribe him again with a treat. You usually start out with a treat to accomplish the exercise and then once your dog consistently performs the exercise correctly, you start weaning him off the treats for that particular exercise.

### *Goal*

To be able to perform all commands without getting a treat as a reward.

## Stay

Another important command is "Stay". Because it's nice to be able to get your dog to perform any command, but if they don't stay in that position for a while, why bother right? So first we need to teach them what "Stay" means and what to do with it. In the Advanced Training classes we make it a lot harder, but for now a few seconds will do.

### *Exercise*

- ❖ Stand in front of your dog.
- ❖ Calmly make your dog sit.
- ❖ Hold your open hand -palm down- in front of him, just above his face and tell your dog to "Stay" - don't move away.
- ❖ Make him stay in the sit position for a few seconds (3).
- ❖ Calmly praise your dog while in the stay position (don't excite him too much).
- ❖ Click/mark the behaviour, and reward with a treat and then release him.
- ❖ If your dog tries to get out of stay position before you release him, use "ah-ah" and calmly repeat the "Stay" command with hand signal.
- ❖ Practice till you reach 30 seconds without your dog getting up.





## *Troubleshooting*

For this particular exercise we want your dog to be calm and you need to stay calm. Too much excitement will make him get up. We want him to remain in the same position for a while. Using "ah-ah " and calmly repeat the "Stay" command with your hand signal. Only at the end of a "Stay" command you give him a treat, which often entices him to remain sitting.

## *Goal*

When giving your dog the "Sit" and "Stay" commands to have your dog remain sitting for 30 seconds without getting up.

## *Practical application*

Starting out by having your dog stay with a few seconds and gradually building up to 30 seconds. For the purpose of this Beginner Training class 30 seconds is sufficient. But as you will continue to use this command throughout your dogs' life, the time to stay will greatly increase.

## **Move It**

As much as they want to be with us, very often our sweet four-legged furry friends are just in our way. Whether we want to sit on the couch and not on top of them, we walk around with a hot plate, want to move a chair or open a door, they need to move out of the way. So let's practice close proximity walking around your house.

## *Exercise*

- ❖ Attach/wrap your dogs' (6foot) leash around your waist (stick the end through the loop) and attach to your dogs' collar. Your dog is now very close to you and can't move far away.
- ❖ Your dog will need to pay attention to where you are going.
- ❖ Shuffle your feet a bit if necessary so as to not step on your dog.
- ❖ Don't move around too quickly as you may trip over your dog.
- ❖ Walk around the house/yard and walk "through" your dog; suddenly turning towards your dog and say "Move it" so they will move out of your way.

If your dog is on the couch or in your way day to day, practice using the term "Move it" to encourage them to move.

## *Troubleshooting*

Sometimes you just have to nudge your dog a bit to get him to move out of the way. It helps to give an advanced warning to him that you need him to move, because you are coming through and you don't want to trip over him.

## *Goal*

To have your dog move immediately when you use the "Move it" command.

## *Practical application*

My personal favourite one with Dakota is the "Back up the bus" command. She is very large and can not always turn around in a tight spot, so we taught her that term to back up. Over time you will have different terms your dog learns as to what they mean. It doesn't hurt to have some fun in the process. 😊

