

## Stay & Wait

Stay and Wait are two different behaviors. Stay means asking your dog to stay in a fixed position and not move until you release him. Wait is less strict and is essentially asking your dog to wait behind an imaginary line or threshold until you release him. With 'wait' your dog's position doesn't matter, as long as he doesn't cross the line. We will cover how to teach both of these behaviors in this handout.

### Stay

'Stay' is asking your dog to remain in a fixed position until released. This must be broken down into several steps in order to be reliable. The most common mistake made is owners asking their dog to stay, taking several steps back, and then calling the dog to them to get the treat. Remember how important it is to reward for the right behavior at the right time, so you must always walk back to the dog to treat the stay and release him only after this is done.

1. Ask your dog to 'sit'. When he does, tell him "good", but don't give him a treat.
2. Briefly show your dog the hand signal for stay. (Flat hand out like a stop signal) and then put your hand away. Leaving your hand out can lead to your dog relying on this in the future.
  - Don't take any steps back at first! In the beginning, you need to work on building time before even worrying about distance. This is how you get a reliable stay!
3. After showing your dog the hand signal, count in your head to three. Then mark the behavior with a click or "yess" and give your dog a treat. (Some dogs may need to start with even less time to get the hang of keeping their bottom down)
4. Once you treat your dog for the stay, count two seconds and then give him your release word. If your dog pops out of the stay before you release him, tell him "aghh" and guide him back into the position so that you can release him properly.

Gradually increase the time that you are asking him to stay. It is also a good idea to leapfrog between harder and easier repeats, to give your dog "easy" repeats part of the time and then harder repeats mixed in. Remember to do this throughout training. Periodically throw in an easy repetition to keep your dog in the game, rather than always making things progressively harder.

5. Add the verbal cue for 'stay' once your dog is consistent. Then work your way up to at least 10 seconds before adding any distance. When you are ready to add distance, you will add it one step at a time. Always make sure to walk back to your dog to treat him.

Once you start to add distance, practice on a long line. This is good insurance in case your dog breaks his stay. If he is on a long line, he can't run off.

## Wait

'Wait' is asking your dog to remain behind an imaginary line or threshold no matter what position he is in. This is helpful to keep your dog from bolting out of an open door, jumping out of the car before you have had time to gather your things, and even for meal times to teach impulse control.

1. Put your dog on leash and pick an easy threshold in the house to practice at. (One that you can easily block if needed)
2. Get a handful of yummy treats and approach the line. Stand on the line facing your dog and give him the hand signal for 'wait' (two fingers waved left and right).
3. Slowly turn to the side, opening a path through the threshold. If your dog goes to run through, step in front of him and show him the hand signal again. Once you are able to turn to the side and your dog doesn't try to run through, click or say "yess" and give him a treat.
4. Then, you can release him through the line using your release cue.
5. After some repetitions of this, you can begin adding the word "wait" when you give your dog the hand signal.
  - Proof this at different doorways or thresholds, in the car, and at meal times to get it solid.