

Stay

Please Note: Your dog must be able to sit with a single command and no assistance before you can work on this exercise. If he still has a problem sitting, return to the Training Instructions and work on Sit.

This exercise has several levels. Work on each level until your dog can always perform the actions before you move on to the next. Remember to place your dog in a Sit before you start this command:

Level One:

Stand directly in front of your dog, hold your hand up as if you were a traffic policeman, and say "STAY". If he begins to move, give him your correction noise to have him stop. Wait until he is sitting quietly for about five seconds. Praise his action with a high pitched "GOOD PUPPY" for obeying your command. Once you have accomplished this, you can move on to Level Two.

Level Two:

Stand directly in front of your dog, hold your hand up as if you were a traffic policeman, and say "STAY". Slowly back up (always holding the leash) until you have reached the end of the leash. Make sure you do not tug the leash. If he begins to move, give him your correction noise to have him stop. Wait until he is sitting quietly for about five seconds. Step back until you are next to him. Praise his action with a high pitched "GOOD PUPPY" for obeying your command. Once you have accomplished this, you can move on to Level Three.

Level Three:

Stand directly in front of your dog, hold your hand up as if you were a traffic policeman, and say "STAY". Slowly back up (always holding the leash) until you have reached the end of the leash. Make sure you do not tug the leash. Walk in a partial semi-circle to your left until you are all the way to your dog's side. Slowly move to the right, pass in front of him, and stop when you have reached his other side. Now, move back until you are in front of him again. If he begins to move, give him your correction noise to have him stop. Make sure you keep your "Policeman's hand" up the entire time. Now, step back until you are next to him. Praise his action with a high pitched "GOOD PUPPY" for obeying your command. Once you have accomplished this, you can move on to Level Four.

Level Four:

Stand directly in front of your dog, hold your hand up as if you were a traffic policeman, and say "STAY". Slowly back up (always holding the leash) until you have reached the end of the leash. Make sure you do not tug the leash. Walk completely around him. If he begins to move, give him your correction noise to have him stop. Make sure you keep your "Policeman's hand" up the entire time. Now, step back until you are next to him. Praise his action with a high pitched "GOOD PUPPY" for obeying your command.