

Down

Level 4: Respond at a Distance

Purpose:

The goal of this exercise is to teach the dog to respond to the down cue when the handler is at a distance.
 Note: You can really boost the dog's confidence in responding to cues from a distance by tossing or delivering the treat to him (e.g., when the dog lies down, click and quickly deliver the treat to the dog).

Dog Skills

Self control
 Respond to a cue

People Skills

Reinforcement
 Cueing
 Shaping

Steps:

1. Warm-up with a few repetitions of down, while standing in various positions close to your dog. Release and treat correct responses.
2. Next, move out in front of your dog and cue the down; click and deliver a treat to the dog. Move away, release/treat
3. Repeat, gradually increasing distance by a step or two at a time. Click and deliver a treat for all correct responses. No need to click when you release.
4. Begin to intersperse duration: give the cue, pause 1 second, deliver the treat, pause 2 seconds, etc.
5. Play the silent conversation game

Treat Points

Tummy on ground

Good for developing these other behaviours:

Drop on recall, focus from a distance.

At home fun:

Capture downs your dog does on his own at a distance: if you are across the room and your dog lies down on his own, click and treat. Try practicing with a baby gate or barrier between you and your dog. Tether your dog to a fence or post and give the cue from a greater distance. Practice in different rooms and at varied distances.