

Settle

Level 4: Shape a Settle Within a Boundary

Purpose:

The purpose of this exercise is to introduce the settle without the mat. A rope provides a portable boundary that is useful when away from home.

Begin with a section of rope that is three times the dog's body length. When the dog is reliably settling in the rope circle, you can reduce the size.

Dog Skills

Self-control

Offer behavior

People Skills

Shaping

Reinforcement

Steps

1. Place a rope in the shape of a circle on the floor.
2. Shape the dog into the circle, following the same steps as in Settle Level 1.
3. Click as front paws enter the circle, and toss treats outside the circle to reset the dog to enter the circle again.
4. Continue to slowly raise criteria until the dog is stepping into the circle with all four paws.
5. When the dog is reliably going into the circle, cue the sit or down. Click and reset with treat tossed outside the circle.
6. Now begin to cue the dog to "settle," and click for correct response.
7. When the dog voluntarily downs in the circle, reinforce with a stuffed bone.

Click Points

- Going into the circle.
- Sit or down in circle.
- Responding to "settle" cue (moving into the circle and lying down).

Tag Points

- Click when front paws enter the circle.
- Toss the treat outside the circle.

Good for building these other behaviors:

Stay, settle on a mat or within rope in new locations, teaching boundaries, building calmness and self-control, polite greetings and manners around visitors.

At home fun:

Move the rope to different places and shape in each new place. Add "settle" cue and give a bone, stuffed toy, or long-lasting chew if the dog offers a down position in the rope.