



Down

WHAT IS IT?

“Down” is the command used to ask your dog to lay down with all knees and elbows on the floor.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE “DOWN”

- * “Down” is a necessary step to teach your dog before we can begin on a “Down Stay.”
 - * “Down” is also a useful command to help your dog settle.
 - * Don’t confuse the commands “Down” and “Off.” We use “Down” to instruct dogs to lay on the floor, and “Off” to ask them to keep all 4 paws on the floor instead of on people or countertops.
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HOW TO TEACH “DOWN”

Step 1

Begin by luring your dog into a sit position.

Step 2

Put a treat close to their nose and begin to lure their head down between their two front paws. Keep the treat close to their body— if it is too far away, your pup will stand up.

Step 3

As soon as all knees and elbows are on the floor, mark the moment with a verbal “Yes,” and follow up with a reward.

Step 4

Use the word “Free” and encourage them to get up from being in a down. “Free” is an important command that lets your dog know they can get up from the position you have put them in.

Step 5

To add the verbal “Down” cue, say the command only once and then lure them into the position—avoid repeating the command! The verbal cue “Down” should happen before you lure your dog, so that they can learn the word predicts the action.