



# Training Vocabulary

**MARKER WORD ("YES")** – We use the word "Yes" to communicate to the dog that their behavior or response is correct. The timing of the marker word is important because it links the time between the correct response from the dog and the reward. The marker word "Yes" is always followed by a reward including but not limited to food, toys, praise, free time, walks, play, social interaction, and anything else the dog finds valuable. A clicker can be used in place of the word "Yes" for sharper timing and a more consistent sound. When used properly, this method of training makes it easy to avoid dependency on rewards.

**CUE** – A cue, or command, is the signal we give a dog that asks for a specific behavior. At Peace Love Dogs, we use both verbal cues (saying the word "sit") and visual cues (hand signals).

**NAME RECOGNITION** – Your dog's name is a cue that asks for their eye contact and attention. Your dog's name is typically used before we give them another cue to ensure we have their attention. It should not be used or associated with punishment.

**HAND TARGET (TOUCH)** – A hand target is when your dog touches their nose to your hand on cue, and we use the verbal cue "Touch." It is a useful skill to focus your dog's attention, a way to build positive association with hands and strangers, an alternative way to have your dog come to you, a way to redirect mouthing, and a foundation skill for more advanced behaviors.

**RECALL (COME)** – "Come" is a command we use to ask our dogs to come away from what they are doing, physically move toward us, and allow us to give them more information. It should not be used or associated with punishment.

**SIT** – "Sit" is when your dog tucks their rear underneath them, all four paws touching the ground.

**DEFAULT SIT** – At Peace Love Dogs we teach "Sit" as a replacement or prevention behavior for most undesirable behavior, and we do so by asking our dogs to "Sit" before most events or rewards. For example, we teach dogs to "Sit" before their bowl is placed on the ground instead of jumping up. Eventually "Sit" becomes your dog's default behavior when they want something or need more information.

**DOWN** – A down is when your dog puts his chest, stomach, elbows, and rear on the floor. This should not be confused with "Off." This may also be used as a default position for larger dogs.



**OFF** – “Off” is a cue we use to communicate that all four paws on should be on the ground and off of an object, such as furniture.

**STAY** – “Stay” is a cue we give to instruct a dog to freeze in a specific position, such as “Sit” or “Down” until given a release cue.

**PLACE** – “Place” means to go to a specific location, such as a mat or raised dog bed, and remain relaxed in the “Down” position until given a release cue. A tether may be recommended at the discretion of the trainer.

**RELEASE CUE (FREE)** – When we cue a dog to “Stay” or “Place,” it’s clear when the behavior begins. The verbal cue “Free” is the release cue we use at Peace Love Dogs to communicate to the dog that the behavior is over, and they are free to move.

**WAIT** – “Wait” is a separate cue than “Stay.” When we ask a dog to “Wait,” there is an expectation that another cue is coming. For example, we may ask a dog to “Wait” at the front door, and instead of giving a release cue we are expecting the dog to walk with us.

**LEAVE IT** – “Leave It” is a cue that asks your dog to leave or ignore a variety of objects such as food, toys, garbage, other people, dogs, etc. This is a preventative behavior and is different than the “Drop It” cue.

**DROP IT** – “Drop It” is a cue used to ask a dog to let go of something or to get something out of their mouth. We do not encourage owners to reach into their dog’s mouth to grab something the dog has, but we do encourage owners to trade items.

**CRATE** – Teaching your dog to love the crate and being alone is a big emphasis of the Prep School program. We want to make sure the crate is always a positive place. When you do need to leave your dog in the crate give them things like bully sticks, Nobby Nubbly, or frozen Kongs to work on. When we play crate games with your dog, we are focused on teaching him to walk in the crate on his own and stay in there until given permission to come out.

The crate should be your pup’s safe space and personal room. We want to make sure we crate our pups anytime we are not able to fully supervise them. This could include leaving to go the grocery store or work, the time it takes you to shower, dinner time, kid’s homework time, while you’re getting dressed in the morning, or simply when you are busy doing chores in the house.

**LEASH WALKING** – The reason that many dogs pull on the leash is because pulling works! The most important rule with teaching your dog to walk without tension on the leash is that pulling can never benefit the dog. This means that you never allow your dog to continue walking



forward, go sniff something, meet a person or other dog, etc. while there is tension on the leash! Crossing in front or behind you when you are holding the leash is not allowed either. Leash walking is about building a relationship with your dog with clear expectations.

**HEEL** – “Heel” is a more formal, structured version of a casual walk. The traditional positioning has the dog on the owner’s left side, with the dog’s front feet parallel to the owner’s heel. The dog is expected to maintain eye contact and the “heel” position while in motion.