



Down Stay

WHAT IS IT?

A “Down Stay” means that your pup is to stay in the down position until released.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE “DOWN STAY”

- * Down stays are typically used for short periods of time and can be useful in helping your dog to settle.
- * When practicing a down stay, first work on building the duration of your dog’s down stay, then practicing being able to add distractions, and finally the addition of distance.

HOW TO TEACH “DOWN STAY”

Step 1

Begin by giving your dog the “Down” command. Once they are in a “Down,” give them a command “Stay.” Make it a point to only use the “Stay” command once so that they learn to listen the first time!

Step 2

Place a treat on the ground in between their paws every few seconds.

Step 3

After 3–5 seconds use the command “Free” to release them. You may need to encourage them to get up initially, but they will catch on quickly!

Step 4

As their down stay progresses, you will need to use less treat over longer periods of time.

Step 5

Once your pup is able to keep a down stay for a sufficient amount of time (20–30 seconds is a good goal), start to add in small distractions. A good place to begin is being able to bend over and stand back up, being able to move your hands, tapping your feet, etc. Continue to treat them intermittently if they are choosing to stay in the down position while you are adding in distractions.

Step 6

Once your pup is able to hold a down stay with a sufficient duration and added distractions, you can then start to practice being able to walk away from them.

Step 7

If your pup gets up from their “Stay” before you release them, put them back into position as soon as possible