

How I train the sit, down and stand

I have had success teaching the sit, down and stand this way to 6 of our boxers, however, I have run into a bit of resistance from our latest working prospect. However, I have learned a new way to teach a down, from a good friend, more on this later.

With dog on leash, just to keep him from leaving your side, no corrections are given, he's learning, no stress is introduced at this point, he has enough with trying to figure out what it is that you want from him. I am my dogs' cheerleader, they do something right, I have a happy voice, they don't do it right, don't say anything, and try again. I had to learn to be consistent, but if something did not work after a while of trying, I did look for another way to teach, like people dogs learn at different speeds and with different methods.



Sit: Hold a treat up and above the dog's head, don't say anything see what happens, he should sit, if not wait him out until he sits. When he sits mark it "yes" and treat. After he is doing his sits consistently, then introduce the command, it must be the same all the time, I recommend a one syllable word.

Down: Down is a submissive position for a dog, therefore a bit difficult for some dogs to do. Hold the treat above and in front of the dog's head and move the treat towards the dog's chest. When he downs mark it "yes" and treat.



Stand: With one hand to lure the dog up from the down and then place my left hand by his rear leg once he gets up, so he can't move forward and then hold him there while I tell him good and feed him treats.

I do 10 repetitions of each. Once the dog has learned this, and is doing them well both on and off the table, then I mix it up, in other words, down, sit, stand or stand, down, sit, etc. Dogs are smart, you need to be smarter and be sure he is learning which is which, and not just following the order in which you do the exercises.

This is trained on a table about a 6-inches to a foot off the floor, once the dog learns it on the table is moved to the floor to relearn this and then is moved to be trained at outside locations. All is done with food and no corrections while the dog is learning.