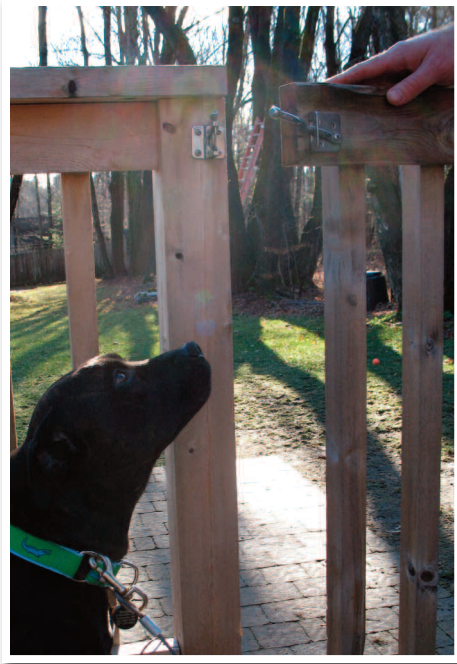


WAIT

THE COMMAND: “Wait” means to pause until further instructions are given. Wait is different from “Stay”. Stay means that a dog must remain sitting or lying down until you return and release them. Wait means that your dog must stop for a moment, like when you put on a leash or exit the house.



HOW TO:

- Ask your dog to sit.
- Slowly lower the food bowl towards the floor.
- If your dog moves forward, towards the food, stand up with the food bowl.
- Try again.
- Put the food bowl all the way on the floor only when your dog remains sitting and making eye contact.
- Release your dog (say “ok” or “free”), so he knows it’s ok to move and eat now.
- Once the dog is reliably waiting, add the verbal command “Wait”.

NEXT STEP:

Doors and Gates:

- Approach the door or gate with your dog beside you.
- Ask your dog to “Wait”.
- Begin opening the door slowly.
- If your dog makes a move towards the door, quickly close the door.
- Start again and, each time your dog makes the slightest moves towards the door, close it.
- When your dog is no longer moving forward towards the door, reinforce the waiting with a “yes”.
- Once your dog is waiting for a few seconds in a row, step through the door.
- Make sure your dog is looking at you, then release him with the cue “Let’s go.”
- If he follows you before you release him, step back in and start again.



On a Walk:

- When you come to a curb ask your dog to “Wait”.
- Reinforce the dog for waiting and giving you eye contact.
- When you are ready to move say “Let’s go”.

Practice in the Yard:

- Put the dog on a long line.
- Let him walk a few feet away and then ask him to “Wait”.
- When he pauses and looks at you, mark and reinforce by tossing a treat to him.
- Practice on leash until the dog is reliably performing a Wait.
- Take the dog to a secure yard and do the same exercise without the leash.

Tips and Troubleshooting:

While working at the door, try small steps, gradually opening the door wider and wider. Start by opening the door a couple of inches, then a foot, increasing until the door is all the way open. Repeat exercise in different directions, in different buildings, and with different types of doors.

For crates and cars, ask your dog to sit or lie down before opening the door. If the dog is standing, they are more likely to charge out the door. Release him with “ok” or “free” if you are allowing him to walk out or “let’s go” if you are leashing him up to move with you.

FOR SHELTERS:

Kennels:

- Approach the kennel.
- Wait for the dog to move to a spot that is away from the kennel door. When they do, mark the desired behavior with a click or a “yes”.
- Place your foot on the bottom of the kennel door and start pushing it open.
- As you push the door open, continue reinforcing the dog for holding his spot with “yes” or a click.
- If the dog moves toward the door, step back and close the door.
- Start over.
- Continue this process until you can enter the kennel and put the dog’s leash on while he is waiting away from the door.
- Wait for the dog to make eye contact with you before releasing him.
- Release him by saying “let’s go” and moving forward together.
- Once the dog has an understanding of the exercise, add the cue “Wait”, before entering the kennel.