



Stay Put!

The secret to "stay" is that you also must choose (and remember to use) a release word, or release gesture in the case of a deaf dog. The release tells your dog when it is ok to move again. I use "free", some other examples are "at ease", "release", "party", "bingo". Make sure your release does not sound like (or look like) any other cues you are using. We also caution against using "okay" since that word is frequently used when speaking.

To teach STAY:

1. Cue your dog to "sit" or "down" (do not click yet, as your goal is a stay and a click signifies the behavior is complete)
2. Cue your dog to "stay" and use a hand signal (our hand signal is an open hand like a STOP signal)
3. Remove the hand signal and count to 3
4. Click (while your dog is still staying)
5. Reward (while your dog is still staying)
6. Release - say the word "free" or whatever word you choose and encourage your dog to rise from the sit or down position

If your dog gets up before you say the release word or give the release gesture, you may use your negative marker (sound such as eh-eh) and remind them to "sit" again. (No second treat.) Then release.

Keep your distance close initially and then begin increasing duration. As your dog becomes more confident, start increasing your distance.

Remember to remove the hand signal and your eye contact after giving the command so your dog gets used to staying without you watching them.

Have fun with practice!

