

## Stay

Teaching the stay is part of basic obedience behaviours which assists in managing your dog's behaviour in the house, helps teach them to gain self-control and the ability to calm themselves. Focus on keeping Max calm and relaxed, so take ensure Max has had some exercise behavior training. When training the stay remain very low key, don't repeat the commands or shout them at your Max. A firm tone of voice for the 'stay' is required but a low key 'good' will reduce the likelihood of Max coming over for his treat.

Ask your dog to either sit or drop (it's up to you) in front of you. Make sure you have an upright posture (most people bend over when calling the dog, so don't send mixed signals). Don't have any treats in your hands, keep them in your pocket for now and make sure your puppy knows this

Teaching stay is progressive, never move onto the next level until Max has mastered the current level.

1. To start have Max in a sit or down position, place your open hand in front of his face and give the cue stay, immediately reward x 5 times.
2. Give the cue with hand signal to stay and count to 5 reward as long as Max doesn't move x 5
3. As above but now start to extend the time between giving the cue/hand signal x 5
4. Give the cue/signal to stay and take 2 steps backward, return and reward x 5
5. As above but increase the distance and duration of the stay
6. As above now start to move in different directions progressively increasing the distance and duration, try walking around Max, behind him, slowly add distractions, clapping hands, jumping up and down, running around him.
7. Keep your eye on Max and don't hesitate to reinforce the stay command especially if he looks as if he is going to move.

In the beginning always reward heavily, this will encourage Max to be happy to repeat the desired behaviour, in this case to stay where you ask to.

I like to encourage the stay from the down position, dog relaxed and flopped over on one hip. This assists the dog to be calm and controlled.

Michele Izzard

Puppy Life Skills.