



The Secret of Stay

Goal: To have your dog remain in one spot without moving (different from wait which is more casual)

Before you start, make sure that your dog LOVES to lie down and remain in the down position no matter what (i.e. You are doing jumping jacks or sit ups in front of him, tossing a ball, etc.)

Steps:

- 🐾 Ask your dog to lie down.
- 🐾 Stand in front of your dog, with your body at a ninety-degree angle (do not face him).

The Seesaw:

- 🐾 Place a treat between your dog's front legs, and say "Down" as he eats it.
- 🐾 Use the hand signal for Stay and put another treat between your dog's front legs.
- 🐾 Quickly place another treat on the floor, this time a few feet away from your dog and repeat the word "Stay".
- 🐾 Repeat taking turns at placing treats between his front legs and a few feet away. That's the Seesaw!
- 🐾 Keep seesawing back and forth, and adding to the growing pile of treats (spread them apart just a little) 3 to 4 feet away.
- 🐾 Go to your dog and say, "Stay" in the happiest tone of voice, give a Jackpot, and release him "NO MORE", to go and find the treats that are a few feet away. Say "Take It" or "Search", or any other term you like.
- 🐾 If your dog gets up, take him back to where he was, ask him to lie down, and say, "Stay" in a serious tone of voice.
- 🐾 Do NOT give a treat immediately after correcting, as your dog will keep getting up. Skip one round of Stay and give a treat for staying the next round..
- 🐾 Surprise your dog with small Jackpots (2-3) every so often, while in the Stay position.

Next Steps:

- 🐾 Spread the treats on the floor further and further away until you're able to hide stashes of treats in different rooms.
- 🐾 ALWAYS, go back to your dog to release him before sending him on a fun Treasure Hunt!

Note: If your dog keeps getting up from the Stay, stop practicing it and go back to reinforcing a stronger DOWN.