



EAST FREMANTLE
Veterinary Clinic

Owners Handout – Week 2

EAST FREMANTLE VET CLINIC

PUPPY PRESCHOOL

Teaching your puppy to stay

Having a puppy, and later on a dog, that will stay will be very useful for you in everyday life. There will be times you will need your dog to stay in a specific spot for short periods.

A sit stay is when the puppy sits on cue and stays in position when asked. Sit stays will be useful when you want to get in or out of the front or back door, load or unload your car, go through a gate or see visitors off in the drive way. Sit stays will also be useful in the veterinary clinic waiting room!

A drop stay means asking your dog to “drop” so he is lying on the ground and then to “stay” in the drop position. Drop stays can be very beneficial around active, excited children or around other dogs that might be fearful or non social.

At other times you may ask you puppy to “stay” in a standing position. Stand stays will be very useful for veterinary examinations and grooming sessions.

Getting your puppy to stay

- 1** Ask your puppy to sit and reward her when she does
- 2** Lean toward the puppy slightly, make eye contact, extend your hand with the palm facing her, and say “stay” but do not move away
- 3** Repeat this several times
- 4** Repeat steps 1 and 2 then take a very small step backwards, say “good dog” and return to your puppy and give her a reward and quiet praise
- 5** When you finish this exercise, always give a release cue such as 'free' so that your puppy knows it is ok to move
- 6** Practise this verbal cue when your puppy is calm
Practise frequently and increase the time your puppy has to stay every 2-3 days
- 7** Once your puppy will stay for 15 seconds, begin working on distance stays. After saying “stay”, step backwards, wait for a few seconds and then release your puppy
- 8** Remember to reward your puppy with praise each time.



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TIPS – Getting your puppy to stay on cue

- If your puppy has been taught how to settle down on a mat she will already have an understanding of what it means to stay in a specific position
- Try to anticipate any movement. If you think your puppy is going to move, quickly return to her and reward her for staying
- Only increase distance or time initially, i.e. don't step further away and ask for an increased time to stay
- If your puppy moves you have left her for too long or stepped too far away. Go back to the stage where she was able to stay without moving and reinforce this before attempting longer or increased distance stays again
- Drop stays and stand stays can be taught in the same way once your puppy knows how to drop and stand
- Keep the "stay" cue for short periods and don't confuse this with settling on a mat for longer periods.

