



EAST FREMANTLE
Veterinary Clinic

Owners Handout – Week 3

EAST FREMANTLE VET CLINIC

Teaching your puppy to drop on cue

Your puppy can be trained to lie down on the cue “drop.” This is useful when your puppy needs to settle on the back seat of a car or when visitors or excited children are present.

The puppy is taught to drop from a sitting position. Some puppies feel vulnerable when they are lying down and may be reluctant to do it. Be patient and keep the training slow and consistent with lots of praise.

Getting your puppy to drop on cue

- 1 Ask your puppy to sit using a kibble or puppy treat
- 2 Reward your puppy as soon as they sit
- 3 Hold another treat in front of your puppy's nose and slowly lower the treat to the floor between the puppy's front paws
- 4 Repeat this exercise until your puppy is lying down reliably then add the verbal cue “drop”. Say “drop” as your puppy's front end touches the floor and give her the treat. Say “good puppy” as she takes the treat from your hand
- 5 Gradually phase out food, but continue to offer praise like “good dog” when your puppy lies down
- 6 Eventually, you should be able to use a downward sweep of your hand and your puppy will slide to the floor. Continue to reward with food occasionally to help reinforce the behaviour.

TIPS

- Make it comfortable for your puppy to drop by starting the exercise on a soft surface like a mat
- For smaller puppies, or if you have trouble bending down, use a table or another raised area
- Practise when the puppy is tired and wants to lie down
- Continue rewarding intermittently with praise or treats when your puppy lies down



23 May Street East Fremantle 9339 7000