

By Me

Purpose:

The **By Me** exercise teaches your dog to come to your side and sit. If you have chosen to have your dog walk on your right side the **By Me** will be on your right. If you have chosen to have your dog walk on your left side the **By Me** will be on your left. When your dog has learned the **By Me**, she will come to your side and sit. You and your dog will be facing the same direction.

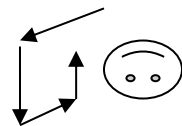
Verbal Signal: Yes
Non-Verbal Signal: Yes
Need to Know: Targeting and Sit

Steps for By Me:

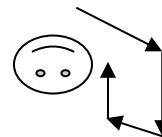
Step 1 – Have your dog sit or stand in front of you. You and your dog should be facing each other. Use targeting to move your dog to the side of you on which she walks.

- a) If your dog will be going to your left side, **Target** her using a counterclockwise movement.
- b) If your dog will be going to your right side, **Target** her using a clockwise movement.

Help your dog make a full circle by first targeting her away from your body, then bring her past you, and then turn her so she is facing the same direction as you.



Counterclockwise



Clockwise

Training Tip

It is rare for a dog to make a complete turn on the first try. You may need to **Click/Treat** your dog for any attempt to follow your **Target**. Click for a step or two in the right direction. **Target** again. Try to get three or four steps and then **Click/Treat**. Continue to **Click/Treat** for each additional movement until you can **Target** your dog in complete circle and turn her to face the same direction as you.

Step 2 – Repeat Step 1 several times. When your dog consistently and easily moves into position, do not **Click** when she is at your side. Instead, when your dog stops at your side, ask her to **Sit**. **Click/Treat** for the **Sit**. Repeat this step several times.

By Me continued

Step 3 – **Target** your dog to your side. Do not give the **Sit** signal. Wait to see if your dog will sit automatically without a signal. If your dog sits, click, **Jackpot** her, and end the training session.

If your dog does not sit automatically, repeat Step 2 a few more times and then try Step 3 again.

Training Tip

Be patient. Wait to see if your dog will sit automatically without giving the **Sit** signal. When your dog has been clicked several times in a row and then she does not receive a click, she may offer another behavior to get you to click. The behavior she is likely to offer is what she has been clicked for, in this case a **Sit**.

Step 4 – Repeat Step 3 a few times. If your dog consistently moves into position and sits, then she understands what you are asking.

Step 5 – It is now time to add the signal **By Me**. Pair the **By Me** signal with the behavior. As your dog moves into position by your side say, “**By Me**”. Do this several times.

Step 6 – Have your dog sit or stand in front of you. Give your dog the verbal signal **By Me**. If your dog moves into the correct position, **Click** and give her a **Jackpot**. End the training session.

Savvy Helpful Hint

Your dog may not move into position the first few times you give the **By Me** signal. If she starts to move to your side or even looks in that direction, **Click/Treat** her. When you start using the verbal signal without targeting, your dog may not be sure what she is suppose to do. By clicking for any movement toward the behavior, even an eye movement, you are letting your dog know, “Yes that’s right.”

Training Tip

It is important that your dog can do a **By Me** with both a verbal and non-verbal signal. There may be times when you are unable to give both signals together. An example would be if your hands were full with groceries.

Training Tip

Practice **By Me** when your dog is in different places around you. Give the signal when your dog is lying down, when she is behind you, and when she is on the opposite side of where she normally walks.

If your dog is not near you, first give the **Come** signal. Praise her when she comes to you and then ask her to **By Me**. **Click/Treat** when she does the **By Me**.