

Close 1

Purpose:

The **Close** exercise teaches your dog to walk in a controlled position next to you. Your dog will be looking straight ahead in the direction you are moving or will be looking at you. You might ask your dog to do a **Close** when you are in crowds of people, moving through the meat aisle in the grocery store, passing another dog, or any time you need a more controlled walk with your dog's attention on you.

Verbal Signal: Yes
Non-Verbal Signal: Optional
Need to Know: By Me

Steps for Teaching Close:

- Step 1 – Put several food rewards in the hand that is on the side your dog walks. Put your leash and clicker in your other hand.
- Step 2 – Give your dog the **By Me** signal. Do not **Click/Treat**. Say your dog's name, show her the food rewards, and take one or two steps forward. If you are in a wheelchair or scooter, move only one or two feet forward.

Click your dog for moving forward with you while she is close to you in the **By Me** position. When you click, STOP moving, and give your dog a **Treat**.

For the **Close** exercise, you should click when your dog is near you (in the **By Me** position) and when she is either looking straight ahead or looking at you. Do not click if your dog's attention is somewhere else.

Savvy Helpful Hint

Feed your dog the **Treat** by your side instead of in front of you, even if she moves out of position after hearing the click. By consistently rewarding her with a treat fed by your side, she will remain by you because she knows this is where the treat will be.

Training Tip

At first, you and your dog will be moving forward in a straight line rather than making turns.

- Step 3 – Repeat Step 2 a few times. Then gradually begin to increase the distance a step or two at a time. If you are in a wheel chair or scooter, increase the distance by one or two feet at a time.

Close 1 continued

Training Tip

If your dog does not remain in the correct position when you start increasing the distance, move a shorter distance until she is successful at that distance. Then gradually begin to increase your distance again.

Step 4 – Once your dog consistently remains in position for ten steps or ten feet, you will add the verbal signal **Close**. You will say your dog's name and as you move forward say, "**Close**".

When practicing **Close** be consistent and clear to your dog by doing the following steps:

- a) Say your dog's name
- b) Move a short distance forward.
- c) **Click** for correct position.
- d) **STOP!**
- e) **Treat**. Feed the treat at your side.
- f) Repeat the exercise.

Savvy Helpful Hint

The **Close** can be hard work and boring for your dog. Keep the training sessions very short and keep them fun.