

Close 2

Purpose:

Add distance and turns to the **Close** exercise.

Once your dog has learned the **Close** exercise, she should be walking next to you in the **By Me** position. She is either looking straight ahead or her attention is on you. Think of her attention on you as “checking in” with you. Reward her when she checks in with you with a **Click/Treat**. If she gives you constant attention, praise her verbally in between clicks.

Steps for Teaching Close 2:

Step 1 – **Increasing Distance** – Continue practicing the **Close** in a straight line. Gradually increase the distance that you are moving forward with your dog until you can do a **Close** for twenty or thirty feet.

Adding Turns – Now that your dog is doing the **Close** in a straight line, you will start adding turns. There are three different types of turns. There is a right turn, left turn, and an about turn. An about turn is one where you turn 180 degrees so that you are walking back in the direction you were coming from.

Teach your dog one type of turn at a time. For example, train your dog to do a left turn. Once she has learned to do a **Close** on a left turn, then practice right turns. After she can do right turns, then train her to do about turns. Your dog must maintain the **By Me** position and her attention on you or looking forward during the turn.

Step 2 – **Train a Turn** – Start training your dog to do a **Close** on either a right or left turn. Begin by having your dog do a **Close** for a short distance in a straight line. Then start to make the turn. **Click/Treat** your dog for moving one or two steps into the turn even though she may not be in the exact position you want.

Move forward again for a short distance and make another turn. This time **Click/Treat** for three or four steps into the turn. Continue to do this until your dog can make a complete turn when she is doing the **Close**.

Training Tip

If you are in a wheelchair or scooter, or are using a walker or cane, move slowly as you start practicing the turns. **Click/Treat** your dog just as she starts to turn. Do not be concerned if she is not in the correct position at first. You want your dog to be comfortable around your assistive equipment and learn to pay attention to its movement. Raise your criteria gradually.

Close 2 continued

Savvy Helpful Hint

There may be times when your dog is accidentally bumped or run into by your wheelchair, scooter, or walker. When this happens try not to over react by soothing or consoling your dog. Instead, continue training your dog by having her do something you can **Click/Treat**. Your dog will learn to pay attention to you and your equipment when you are moving.

- Step 3 – Once your dog has learned to do the **Close** on this turn, start training her to do the **Close** on another type of turn. Continue training each turn until your dog can do the **Close** on right turns, left turns, and about turns.
- Step 4 – Once you have taught your dog to do a **Close** for longer distances and on turns, practice moving in a straight line and making turns. Mix them up so your dog has to pay attention to where you are moving. Move around obstacles, close to walls, next to people, etc.
- Step 5 – Practice moving at different speeds. Move at a normal pace. Move at a slow speed. Increase your pace or speed if you are able. Your dog needs to learn to do the **Close** regardless of how fast or slow you are moving.