

Down

Purpose:

The **Down** exercise teaches your dog to lie down on a signal. It is different from the **Settle** exercise, which requires your dog to find her mat and lie on it. Your dog will lie down wherever she hears the signal.

Verbal Signal: Yes

Non-Verbal Signal: Yes

Need to Know: Sit

Steps for Teaching Down:

Step 1 – First hold some training treats in your closed hand. Ask your dog to sit.

Training Tip

When your dog sits she may be expecting a Click. Do not Click. Instead give her some verbal praise. This will encourage her to keep working.

Step 2 – Put your hand with the treat in it under your dog's nose and slowly bring your hand straight down towards the floor. Your dog should follow your hand. **Click/Treat** when your dog lies down.

Savvy Helpful Hint

If it is difficult for you to bend down to the floor you can put your dog up on a bed or table to work.

Training Tip

If your dog is reluctant to follow your hand you can click for any kind of movement toward the ground.

Step 3 – Repeat Step 2 until your dog consistently and easily lures into a **Down** position. Next, do not lure your dog. Wait for her to lie down on her own. When she does, **Click** and **Jackpot** her.

Step 4 – Once your dog is consistently offering the **Down**, you are ready to add the signal. Say the signal, "**Down**" as your dog begins to lie down. **Click/Treat** once she is on the floor. Repeat this several times.

Step 5 – Now see if your dog understands the **Down** signal. Ask your dog to **Down**. If she does not respond, go back and repeat Step 4.

Step 6 – Once your dog understands the verbal signal for **Down**, you may add a non-verbal signal. Pair your non-verbal signal with your verbal signal three or four times. Then try each signal separately.

Down continued

Savvy Helpful Hint

Once your dog understands **Down**, practice it on different surfaces, different places and while you are in different positions. Give the signal when you are standing, sitting, or even lying down. Also, give the signal when your dog is in different positions. When she is sitting or lying down.