

Front

Purpose:

The **Front** exercise teaches your dog to move in front of you. Your dog will then be given a signal to do one of the following:

Stay
Sit and Stay
Down and Stay

You will determine which one of these behaviors you want your dog to do depending on the situation or the environment you are in at the moment.

The **Front** exercise is used when you need your dog in a position that allows you to be aware of what your dog is doing, but your attention cannot be fully on your dog. Situations that may require your dog to be on a **Front** would be while you are checking out at the store, conducting business at the bank or post office, selecting items from a shelf in the grocery store, or having a conversation with someone in a crowded area.

Verbal Signal: Yes

Non-Verbal Signal: Yes

Need to Know: Targeting, Let's Go, Sit, Down, and Stay

Steps for Teaching Front:

Step 1 – Move towards a wall with your dog doing a **Let's Go**. Face the wall and **Target** your dog to go between you and the wall. **Target** your dog to a position where her tail is even with your left foot, if she walks on your left side. If your dog walks on your right side, target her in front until her tail is even with your right foot. **Click/Treat** when she is standing in this position. Repeat several times.

Step 2 – Once your dog easily and confidently moves into the **Front** position each time you target her, you are ready to add a signal. Say the verbal signal **Front** as your dog is moving into position. Pair the verbal signal with the behavior several times. **Click/Treat** each time.

Savvy Hint

The targeting you are using to move your dog into the **Front** position may become your non-verbal signal if you choose. At this stage, you will no longer say "Touch". Instead, move your hand as when you targeted and say "Front".

Step 3 – Now move toward the wall, but do not **Target** your dog. Instead, say your verbal signal **Front** and see if your dog moves into position. If she assumes the correct position, **Click/Treat**. If she does not go into the **Front** position, repeat Step 2 a few more times and then try again.

Front continued

Step 4 – Once your dog has learned the **Front** you will determine in what position you want your dog to be.

If you want your dog to remain standing, you will give the signal to **Stay**.

If you want your dog to be sitting, you will give the signal **Front**. Once your dog is in that position, you will tell her to **Sit** and **Stay**.

If you want your dog to lie down, you will give the signal **Front**. Once your dog is in position, you will tell her to **Down** and **Stay**.

Training Tip

When you are teaching Step 4, do not **Click/Treat** your dog when she moves into the **Front** position. Praise your dog and then continue the exercise by telling your dog what you want her to do e.g. – **Stay**, **Sit/Stay**, or **Down/Stay**. **Click/Treat** after she completes the entire behavior.

Step 5 – Extend the amount of time that your dog remains in a **Stay** on the **Front** exercise. Gradually extend the amount of time that your dog stays. Raise your criteria until your dog will stay for the length of time that you want.

Savvy Hint

After your dog has learned the **Front** exercise, practice the exercise at counters, next to walls, between you and another person, and other places that you may need your dog to do a **Front**.

Be sure your dog's tail is out of the way when she is in the **Front** position. You may want to put your foot behind your dog's tail to ensure that her tail will not be stepped on or run over by a grocery cart. You can teach your dog to "tuck her tail". Check with your instructor if you would like to learn this exercise.