

Stay 1 – Duration

Purpose:

The **Stay 1** – Duration teaches your dog to remain in whatever position you want and for whatever length of time you want.

Verbal Signal: Yes

Non-Verbal Signal: Yes

Need to Know: Sit

Steps for Teaching Stay - Duration:

At first, you will train your dog to **Stay** for only a few seconds. Gradually you will work towards having your dog **Stay** for one minute, two minutes, five minutes, and continue training for longer amounts of time.

Step 1 – Have your dog **Sit** next to you. Do not **Click/Treat** for the **Sit** and do not move away from your dog. Instead, wait two or three seconds. If your dog is still sitting, **Click/Treat**. It is important to **Click** your dog while she is still sitting.

If your dog moves out of the **Sit** position before you have clicked, use your **Try Again** signal followed by the **Sit** signal.

Training Tip

The **Try Again** signal should be said the instant your dog moves out of the **Sit** position. Pinpoint the exact moment your dog lost her opportunity to earn a click, getting out of the **Sit**. This helps your dog understand that sitting is the behavior that earns a **Click/Treat**.

Step 2 – Once your dog consistently remains in the **Stay** position for three seconds, begin increasing the amount of time that she is to stay. Increase the time in 5 second increments. Remember that your dog is still next to you.

Step 3 – When your dog **Stays** in the **Sit** position for twenty seconds, you are ready to add the verbal signal “**Stay**”. Ask your dog to **Sit**. Once she is in position say, “**Stay**”. You can add a non-verbal signal for **Stay** at the same time you add the verbal signal. After the desired amount of time, if your dog is sitting, **Click/Treat**.

Savvy Helpful Hint

If your dog is not successful doing a three-second **Stay**, do not attempt to increase the time. Remain at one level until your dog is successful. Then raise your criteria.

Stay 1 – Duration continued

Step 4 – Continue the amount of time your dog remains on a **Stay**. Remain next to your dog, but change where you are. Sometimes be in front of your dog, sometimes on her right side, sometimes on her left side, and sometimes behind your dog.

Change your position by sometimes standing, sitting, kneeling (if you are able), or lying down.

Your goal is to have your dog **Stay** for one minute, regardless of where you are or what your position is.

Step 5 – Vary the amount of time you ask your dog to **Stay**. Although your goal is to have your dog **Stay** for one minute, do not try to get there by always increasing the time. On one repetition have your dog **Stay** for ten seconds. The next repetition do a 5-second **Stay**, then a 15-second **Stay**, then a 12-second **Stay**, etc. This allows your dog the opportunity to earn a reward for what she knows and can successfully complete as you continue to reach the goal of one minute.

Training Tip

Once your dog is able to do a **Stay** for 30 seconds you may do the following. Give your dog the **Stay** signal. While she is still in position, slowly and quietly give her a treat. Do not click. If she moves out of position, you must put her back on a **Stay**. Feeding your dog while she remains on a **Stay** makes it easier for her to remain in position while you increase the time.

Savvy Helpful Hint

At first, **Stay** is taught with one behavior. A **Sit** is used. The **Stay** will be used with other behaviors such as a **Down**. The steps in this handout apply to those behaviors.