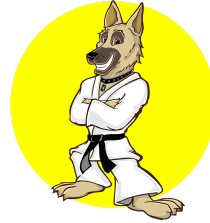


Walk Backwards



Problem solving the training...

There are many places where having a dog know a "BACK" command can be very important, particularly in obedience. I've done a video on teaching your dog the skill, but several people have the same hurdle when teaching it - the dog lies down instead of walking backwards. So, this video will address some of the issues to either prevent that from happening or fix it!

It's important to be patient when teaching new skills to dogs, in particular ones that are not natural for a dog such as the WALK BACKWARDS.

Since the dog doesn't naturally know how to do this, we teach them the behavior and must address . the muscle memory that it takes. Being patient when teaching it will make the experience a good one and help the dog learn it faster and with less mistakes.

Step One

The dog should be relatively clear on his or her STAND Command. The reason I suggest this is that when and if he goes down, you can tell him to STAND without too much frustration.

I have a video on STAND on YOUTUBE, but will be adding a new more detailed lesson here in the next week or two.

Step Two

You will lure the BACK through pressure both physical and spatial. This works best using treats because it keeps the dog's head forward while he walks backwards. This is much harder with toys.

Step Three

You can move the dog by turning their head. The key is to keep the dog moving backwards as straight as possible.

Using treats in both hands keeps the dog from favoring one side or another!

Most IMPORTANT

I think the biggest mistake that people make when teaching this is to bring their hands too low. This forces the dog into the DOWN position instead of going backwards. You'll see this in the video lesson. Keep the dog's head straight will push him backwards without moving him into a DOWN.



Takeaways from Problem Solving the BACK

1. Be clear the dog knows the STAND.
2. Use rewards in both hands.
3. Keep the dog's head level to avoid false DOWNS!
4. Keep sessions short and reward back towards you!

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