



Lie Down

Marker work YES – saying “YES” when your dog does what you asked for, lets him know he’s getting it right.

Two ways that we can train for this behavior is to use a technique called Luring or, to Capture the behavior.

Luring:

- 🐾 To start, kneel down, sit in a chair, or stand in front of your dog. You’ll want him on a leash. Place the leash under your knees or your foot (with no tension on the leash).
- 🐾 Hold a piece of food between the thumb and forefinger (with palm facing down) in one hand.
- 🐾 With your dog sitting or standing (vary the position) touch your dog’s nose with the food and lure him down by lowering the food to the ground and then moving it in towards him, between his front legs. (To put it in baseball terms, bring it in “low and inside”).
- 🐾 say “YES” as your dog lies down and treat him on the floor.
- 🐾 Use your release word to let him up and repeat the lure two more times, releasing him each time after you have marked and treated.
- 🐾 Next, show him your treat and put it back in your treat pouch.
- 🐾 Using the same hand motions as before (this time without the treat) go through the down motion.
- 🐾 If he has difficulty going into a down position, say “YES” and treat just when he lowers his head. Once he has been marked and rewarded for that lowering motion, wait for him to go a little further down for the next say “YES” treat.
- 🐾 Break the exercise into smaller steps and be patient, keep your dog progressing in small increments for him to succeed.
- 🐾 When shaping a down, look at the floor, not your dog, this will help prevent him from looking at you.
- 🐾 Eventually, wait until he goes all the way into a down position.



Capturing:

The best place to start capturing the “Down” is in the bathroom – it’s small and easy to clear of all the potential distractions. Take your dog in, shut the door, and wait. Sit down and read a magazine. Ignore your dog. Eventually, he will lie down. The moment he settles, say “YES” and treat. As soon as you say “YES”, your dog will probably become very interested in you. He’ll sit in front of you, stare holes in you, and try any and every behavior you’ve ever reinforced.

Ignore him. Read your magazine. Eventually, he’ll stop trying to entice you and lie down Say “YES”!

Once your dog is easily following the Lure or offering a Down, you can add the cue word “DOWN”.

Key points:

- Get exactly the behavior you want.
- Add the cue.

Make the behavior reliable by doing it in different locations.

As always, have fun and if you or the dog are frustrated, take a break and do something fun, then try again.

