

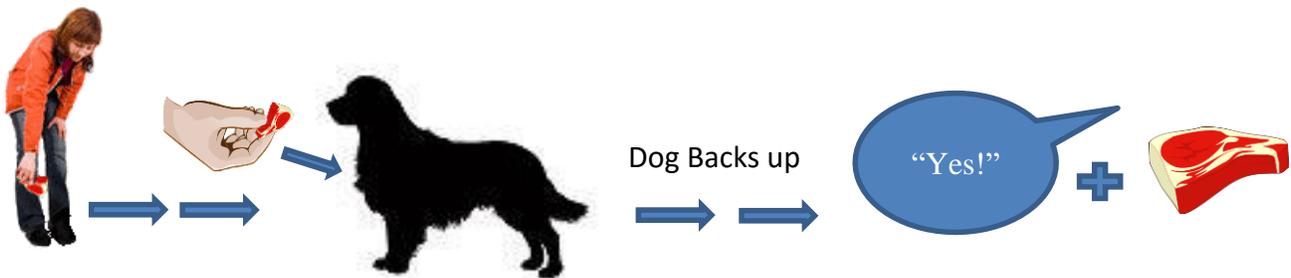
How to teach back.

Choose a quiet place to practice with few distractions so it is easy for your dog to focus on you. Later you can add in real-life context and locations such as doorways and tighter spaces. Some dogs are more sensitive to spatial pressure, so please go slow, watch your dog's body language and keep it fun!

Repeat EACH step at least 5 times. After 5 successful trials in a row, move on to the next step.

Step 1. Crowding with food lure - Teaching the motion

- Stand in front of your dog, hand loaded with a treat and your dog in a standing position.
- Bend over and 'crowd' your dog with food.
 - Crowd = Start with your hands at your dog's nose, move your hands toward their chest as you take a step towards them. (They will try to follow the treats and naturally back up.)
- The second they begin to move backwards ~1/2 to 1 step, say your marker word and treat (M/T).



Step 2. Adding steps back

With the food lure still in hand, push to 2 steps, then 3 steps....Always stick on how many steps they must take to get a treat until they are pros before moving to additional steps.

Step 3. Crowding with NO food lure

Repeat steps 1 then 2 with no food in your hand. Make the same hand, then body motions.

Step 3. Adding verbal cue

- Say 'beep beep' or 'back' in a cheerful tone, then give the hand, then body motion cues.
- When they back up, M/T.
- Repeat, repeat, repeat and add number of steps incrementally starting at 2 steps.

After several reps, your dog will start moving backwards on your verbal cue alone and not wait for you to make the hand motion or movement towards them. Keep practicing until they are pros at the verbal cue alone. AND.....

Remember, when we add distractions → go back to making it easier for them so the stay in the game!