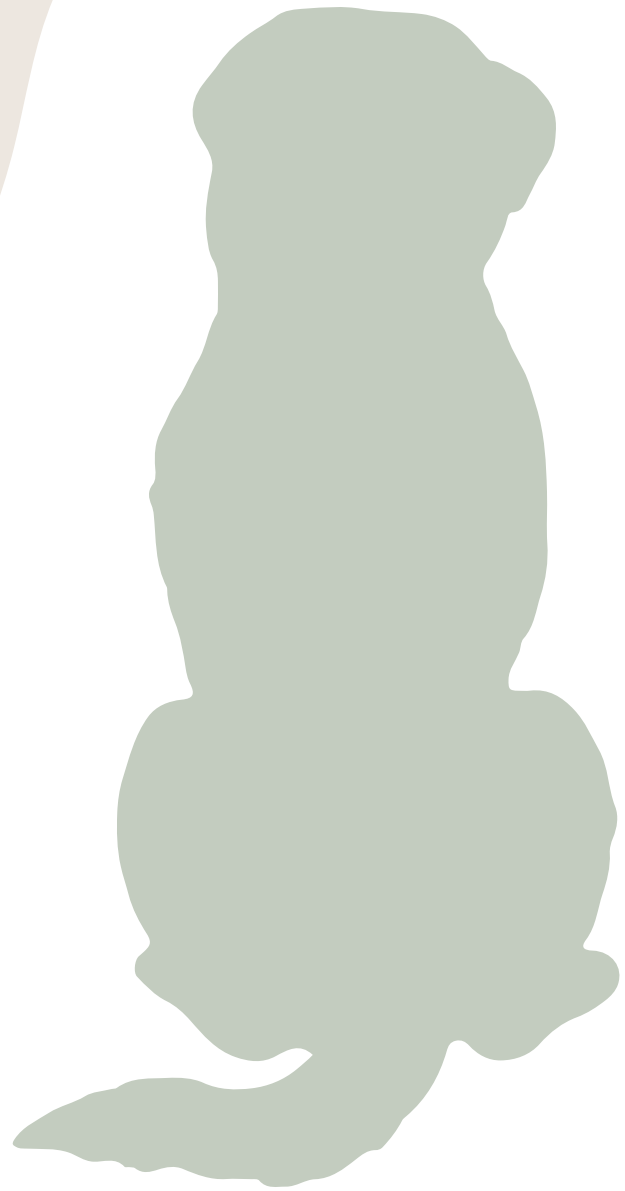


Expect the Pawsible
positive dog training



HOW TO

teach your dog to stay

How to Teach your Dog to Stay



1. Start in a quiet place

It's important to choose a safe and quiet space when teaching your dog the stay command, especially when starting out. Any sort of distraction including sounds, movements and scents can disrupt your progress.

2. Have your dog sit

Ask your dog to "Sit." If your pup hasn't already learned the sit command, our experts recommend postponing the stay command and teaching sit first. If your dog isn't sitting, it is almost impossible to get them to stay.

3. Reward your dog after they sit a few seconds

Once your dog sits, don't give them a reward right away. Wait a few seconds first. Then you can reward your dog with training treats, an enthusiastic response, or scratches, rubs and pats—whatever makes your dog the happiest.

4. Repeat, but increase the delay

Ask your dog to sit again, but this time wait a few more seconds before giving them a reward. Do this several more times, each time increasing the delay between the sit command and their reward by three to five seconds. Keep gradually increasing the length of time until you hit at least 15 seconds.



5. Introduce the stay command

Repeat the above steps until your dog can hold their sit for at least 15 seconds. At this time, you can begin using the dog stay command. Simply say, "Sit" and wait for them to sit, then say, "Stay." Make sure to use a clear and confident voice, and always give your dog a treat to reward their obedience!

6. Introduce the release command

Now it's time to introduce the release command. Start by telling your dog to sit, then after 15 seconds have elapsed, give your release command and toss some training treats so your pup must get up to retrieve them. A release command might be a hand signal—such as lifting your hand up—or the words “OK” or “Go.”



7. Make it more challenging

Once you know how to teach a dog to stay, you can up the ante. For example, you can add distance between you when giving the command or having them hold the dog stay command for longer. Also, once your dog has a firm grasp of this cue, you can begin using it in everyday scenarios, like on walks.



Things to Avoid

Don't Get Frustrated: If you find yourself losing patience, step back and try again tomorrow. Don't try to rush the process.

Don't Make them Stay for Long Periods: The stay command is meant for relatively short periods of time to keep your dog out of harm's way. To foster meaningful trust

between you and your pup, never use the stay command for extended periods of time. For example, you wouldn't want to give the dog stay command when you are leaving the house to run errands for a few hours, or if you're getting ready to take a long shower or bath.

Avoid Unsafe Situations: Only have your dog sit in safe situations. For example, they shouldn't be left alone at a dog park or near a busy street.