



## *Mutts with Manners*

# **DROP**

### Animal Welfare League of SA Inc

Start teaching drop or down when your dog has a reliable sit. Ensure you are training the dog on a comfortable surface – carpet or dry grass.

With the dog sitting in front or beside you hold a treat in front of his face. If the dog wants to nibble it that's okay, just don't let him have all of it.

Slowly bring the treat down between the dog's front legs. The dog should follow your hand down and (if you're lucky) will lie down to get it. If he does, give the treat immediately. If your dog doesn't lie down on the first attempt then continue to try until he does. (it will happen but may take a few attempts) Your dog may get up out of a sit instead of dropping. If this happens, ask the dog to sit again, praise then have another try. Don't forget to have a break if your dog is getting frustrated or anxious, then go back and try again. It can also help to sit or kneel down next to the dog.

Do not start adding a verbal cue until the dog has successfully achieved the exercise 5 times in a row. Then add the word drop or down. Use either word but don't interchange them.



When the dog is doing a drop reliably with a verbal command, lure the dog down using the word and food in the hand but have a treat in the other hand and give that treat, not the one you are luring with. Then lure the dog down without the treat in your hand, but still produce the treat from the hand immediately the dog has dropped. This way, the dog will understand that even though he can't see/smell the treat, it will still come if he does the right thing.

If the above method is not working, you may need to manoeuvre your hand a little to help the dog understand. Some dogs need you to lure the head around to the hip so they almost rollover to drop. Some dogs are better if you bring the food forward so the dog stretches out to reach the food; others prefer you to lure the head towards the chest. Experiment and find which works best for your dog. If you are having difficulty we will assist you in the lesson.

If you are having major problems, try a better value treat - fritz, chicken, and ham to start with. You can start saying drop or down when the dog is lying down at home so they start to associate the position with the word.



1-19 Cormack Road  
WINGFIELD SA 5013  
PO BOX 1525 PORT ADELAIDE 5015  
Phone 8348 1300 Fax 8268 9545  
email: [wecare@animalwelfare.com.au](mailto:wecare@animalwelfare.com.au)