



Mutts with Manners

WAIT

Animal Welfare League of SA Inc

Wait is very much like stay and is taught in the same way. Try to use wait before the dog is to do an action, eg waiting before eating dinner, wait before jumping in or out of the car, wait before going out of the door/gate. Stay is generally used when you are planning to return to your dog, eg while you go into the shops. After asking the dog to wait use a release word to mean "you don't have to wait anymore" like OK.

When first teaching wait use a lead to help with controlling the dogs movement. Ask the dog to sit and wait and take a very small step away from your dog. You can use the lead to gently prevent the dog from moving and have her nibble a treat that is in your hand to keep her in position. Return after about ½ second (don't expect too much too soon) and praise and give a treat if she stayed in position. Very gradually increase the time that she has to wait and then increase the distance. If you find your dog making mistakes, don't reprimand as your dog is probably coming towards you and we NEVER tell the dog off for coming to us! Make it easier for the dog to understand by leaving the dog for a shorter



time or not going as far.

Once your dog understands this exercise, use it consistently. Ensure you always ask the dog to wait for her dinner and before going out the door and ensure you always give the release word before allowing her to go ahead.

This is a very useful exercise for those dogs that like to rush out of the door and run away but you must be very consistent and ensure you ask her to wait EVERY TIME you go out the door, including when on lead. If the dog continually gets up from the sit each time you open the door, then shut the door and ask for a sit again. You don't need to reprimand the dog for not waiting; the door shutting will be punishment enough. If you tell the dog off then she will not understand what the reprimand is for and get confused and anxious. An anxious dog does not learn as quickly as a relaxed dog. Spend a long time on this exercise at times when you are not in a hurry to take the dog out so you can take as long as you need to ensure the dog understands. If your dog sits quietly and nicely when you open the door, make sure you use the release word so she knows when it's ok to move through the door.

The number one rule to ensure this word is understood completely by your dog is to BE CONSISTENT. Make sure you never allow the dog through the door without a wait and release word. If you are consistent eventually it will be so ingrained in the dog's mind that she will do it automatically and so ingrained in your's you will ask automatically.



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