

Go Behind/Stop at the door

Teaching a dog to go behind us or to stop at a doorway, is a safety behaviour. With our dog behind us, we can go ahead and check that it is safe to leave. With the dog behind us we can allow other dogs, bikes, joggers etc to pass by safely.



This behaviour can be taught on or off lead.

We are going to teach this using the luring technique. Please watch this video to learn how to get started with luring <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSCyk7Ufu8&t=18s>

Step 1 – Choose your food reward

We are going to teach the dogs to stop at the door or gate when we stop, therefore you need a piece of food that can be placed at your dog's feet, doesn't roll around and can be seen against your flooring. If your dog has any problems with vision, then pick a highly scented food.

Step 2 – Collect the food and engage your dog

Most dogs are very aware of where the training food is kept, and will arrive at the fridge or cupboard before you, but if your dog is new to training you may have to employ some acting skills and become animated about collecting and preparing the food. Avoid looking at your dog as you do this, focus on the food instead, dogs are co-operative hunters and instinct will cause them to become interested in anything that interests you.

Step 3 – use the lure to cue an action of 'follow'

This time place the food between your fingers, turn your palm upwards and invite your dog to follow.

<https://youtu.be/UyqNqwsDgX4>

<https://youtu.be/3Sqdnf4cfcE>

Step 4 – Fade the food

Once your dog has the idea, make the same hand gestures, but this time there is no food in the hand. Keep the food in secure tub, out of reach, besides the door or gate, or you can carry the food in your spare hand.

Begin to add some verbal cues. In my video with the more experienced dog I say 'stop' and then ask the dog to 'wait', use whichever words your dog understands or suit you best.

To increase the amount of time the dog stays still, I deliver the food by tossing it back to him. If I want the dog to join me, I invite him to come forward and collect the food.

<https://youtu.be/weSKMlilkeg>

<https://youtu.be/x5xST15cMbg>

<https://youtu.be/gGSqpTsZgyo>

<https://youtu.be/JXJ4kFRBAjw>