



RSPCA School for Dogs Information Sheet

Wait

The wait cue is very useful when getting the dog in and out of the car, at dinner time for the dog to wait until you have placed the food bowl on the floor or when you want to walk through the door without the dog pushing through first.

'Wait' really only means 'hang on for a second' there will be another cue following shortly.

- Ask the dog to sit in front of you, make sure that the dog's nose is almost touching you.
- Give your dog the hand signal for 'wait' (short open flick with the hand as if you are shaking water off your fingertips).
- Wait for a second or two.
- If the dog has not moved click and reward the dog.
- Ask the dog into the down position. Again click and treat.

If the dog breaks repeat the exercise but this time for a shorter period only. Once the dog is stable during this start gradually moving away (1/2 step, then 1 step). Once your dog is reliably waiting you can make it harder by adding other behaviours. For example, sit and wait, then ask them to go to their bed. Or ask them to go to their bed/mat and wait there while you put their bowl down and release them to eat their dinner. The possibilities are endless with this durable behaviour!

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