



Advanced Class Four

Leave It – The Hard Stuff

Your dog should already have a good beginning understanding of the Leave it cue. Now we will be making it much more difficult by testing their response against some really yummy things! While practicing this behavior, ensure that your dog cannot actually reach the temptations you are practicing with. The more you practice with this cue, the stronger it can get. Make sure to click, reward and praise heavily when your dog leaves the super tempting stuff alone.

Advanced Stay Part Two

Now that you've been getting your dog used to you disappearing from their sight around a corner, we are going to work on putting it together! Our goal is for you to be able to tell your dog to stay and you should be able to turn around and walk out the door. Just like everything else, **we should not rush this process.**

- Place your dog into a "sit" stay or a "down" stay
- Tell your dog to stay and begin walking away from your dog towards the door
 - If your dog begins getting wiggly, come back to them as quickly as you can or use your release word
- Slowly begin opening the door, you may reinforce the "stay" cue with your dog
 - If your dog begins getting wiggly, close the door and start again
- Open the door all the way, tell your dog to "stay" and then return to your dog

We want your dog to be comfortable with the stay as the door is opened. The goal for part two is for you to be able to stand in an open door for 30 seconds while your dog maintains their "stay" from 10-15 feet away.

Supervised Separation

One of the most difficult things for your dog to do is behave appropriately while you walk away from them. Often, this makes your dog difficult to work with for your vet, groomer, or daycare worker. By practicing the separation, your dog can become comfortable with the action and your vet will thank you! The Canine Good Citizen test requires dogs to be able to behave themselves for three minutes while their owners are out of sight. To do this, you will need somebody else to assist you.

- Put your dog on their leash
- Have your helper approach and take the leash from you
- Walk away from your dog and out of their sight for 1 minute

The goal of supervised separation is for your dog to be relaxed while being held by another person. They are allowed to move but may not whine, bark, pull at the leash or perform any other anxious behaviors. Your helper is allowed to speak with your dog but may not pet or give them any cues. This is all about practice! The more we can practice, the sooner your dog will relax while out of your presence. If possible, use a helper that your dog isn't very familiar with.

- Just like with "stay" make sure you slowly add more time at random intervals
- AKC Canine Good Citizen test requires your dog to **remain calm for 3 minutes**