

## Paws UP! Behavior Modification Script: Sit, Wait at Door



Verbal cue is: **Sit** | Visual cue is: **Sweep palm of hand upward toward sky**

### Part 1 Instructions: Teach "Sit"

1. Say "Sit" one time only.
2. Hold food over dog's nose and move it slowly back between his eyes toward his ears. His head will raise, and his rear will lower to the ground.
3. Praise and treat.
4. Throw a treat on the floor a short distance from the dog. Dog will get up to get it, and you can practice again.
5. Repeat 5 times, then switch to another activity for a while.

Verbal cue is: **Wait** | Visual cue is: **Constant eye contact, body frontally toward dog**

### Part 2 Instructions: Teach "Wait at Door"

1. Ask dog to sit, far enough away from the door that you can open it fully.
2. Tell the dog to "Wait." Repeat "Wait" if necessary.
3. Back up toward the door while maintaining eye contact with the dog.
4. If the dog gets up and moves toward you, move quickly toward the dog.
5. Slowly open the door while maintaining eye contact with the dog, and blocking the dog's movement toward the door as necessary.
6. Back out of the door, maintaining eye contact and blocking.
7. Invite the dog to follow you out the door when you are ready.

## Paws UP! Behavior Modification Script: Down, Long Down

Verbal cue is: **Lie Down** | Visual cue is: **Sweep palm of hand downward toward ground**

### Part 1 Instruction: Teach "Down"

1. Say "Down" one time only.
2. Hold food in front of dog's nose and move it slowly down toward the floor and toward the dog's chest. The dog should lower his body toward the ground.
3. Move the food along the dog's side, toward his tail, to cause him to roll onto one hip.
4. Praise and treat.
5. Throw a treat on the floor a short distance from the dog. Dog will get up to get it, and you can practice again.
6. Repeat 5 times, then switch to another activity for a while.

### Part 2 Instructions: Teach "Long Down"

1. Ask dog to "down," say cue one time only; lure if necessary. Say praise word and reinforce when dog lies down.
2. Sit or crouch next to dog.
3. If the dog tries to get up, put your hand on its shoulders and use gentle pressure to help it maintain a down position as you say, "No, Down."
4. Gradually work up to a 2-minute down.
5. Release the dog and continue your walk.

## Paws UP! Behavior Modification Script: Recall / Come when Called

Verbal cue is: **come-COME!** | Visual cue is: **Turn sideways - slap leg - run away**

### Instructions

1. Allow dog to get a distance away from you. Start in the house. If outside use a leash or long line.
2. Turn sideways to dog, slap your leg and call the dog's name to get the dog's attention.
3. When the dog is looking at you, cue the dog to come ("come-COME!") and run away from the dog.
4. Say the praise word when the dog starts toward you.
5. When the dog catches you, catch the dog's harness, give the dog a treat, and release for another round.
6. Do at least 3 rounds before leaving the exercise pen. On the last round attach the leash before letting go of the harness to give the dog a treat.
7. Tossing a ball or a toy may be used in place of the food reinforcement.

## Paws UP! Behavior Modification Script: Drop It / Leave It

Verbal cue is: **Drop it** | Visual cue is: **None**

### Instructions: Drop It

1. Allow pup to take object in mouth: say “*take it.*”
2. Decide what the dog might consider an item of equal or greater value. This could be food (maybe a handful of it!), but might also include balls, toys or other items.
3. Place this item over your dog’s nose and nearly on top of it or throw it on the floor near the dog.
4. Say “*Drop It*” when dog drops object to take what you’re offering in exchange. Deliver lavish praise with exchange.
5. Practice.
6. Eventually pup will drop object on your vocal cue “drop it” in anticipation of something more interesting; keep the exchange item hidden at this point.
7. Gradually extend length of time between object falling out of mouth and dog getting the exchange item; substitute much praise for treats and other items.

Verbal cue is: **Leave it** | Visual cue is: **None**

### Instructions: Leave It

1. Place a low value treat (carrot stick?) under your foot; pup will try to get it.
2. When pup backs away, say praise word and give high value treat (chicken?) from hand held behind your back.
3. When pup is consistently backing away, wait for eye contact before giving treat from hand behind your back.
4. Throw something the dog values behind you and say, “leave it.” Hold a high-value item behind your back.
5. If the dog tries to get it, block access with your body.
6. When the dog stops trying to get the item, reward with praise and the high-value treat held behind your back.
7. Gradually start throwing the object to the side, then in front of and on either side of the dog while repeating steps 5 and 6.

## Paws UP! Behavior Modification Script: Play Tug Politely

### Part 1 Instruction: Teach “Take It” and “Drop It”

1. Say “Take It” and offer the dog a tug toy.
2. Encourage the dog to mouth and chew the toy.
3. Allow the dog to hold the toy in its mouth for 1 second (one-one-thousand).
4. Put a very high-value treat immediately in front of the dog’s nose.
5. Say “Drop It.”
6. When the dog releases the tug, praise, give the treat.
7. Repeat 5 times in a row, then switch to another activity for a while
8. When the dog reliably releases the tug when shown the treat, show the dog the treat, then hide it behind your back and say “Drop It.”
9. When the dog reliably drops the tug when asked to do so, begin Part 2.

### Part 2 Instructions: Teach to Play Tug Politely

1. Say “Take It” and offer the dog a tug toy.
2. Gently pull on the toy and encourage the dog to pull back for 2 seconds (one-one-thousand, two-one-thousand).
3. Say “Drop It.”
4. When the dog releases the tug, praise, and give the tug back and encourage gentle tugging for 2 seconds. Repeat 5 times.
5. On the 5<sup>th</sup> time, instead of giving the tug back to the dog, praise and give several treats in a row and say, “All Done.”
6. Take the tug with you; do not allow the dog to keep it.