

# *HOT DIGGITY DOG REWARD TRAINING*

## Stay-Option 1

We are going to start out by teaching the dog how to remain in place for treat delivery.

We will be using the **Premack Principle** by David Premack :

**“the observation that high-probability behavior reinforces low-probability behavior.”** Essentially it means this: “Eat your vegetables and you can have dessert.” To make this a bit easier to understand in terms of dog training, high-probability behaviors are what the dog wants; low-probability behaviors are what you want. In the following, you'll learn how to use this principle to get the behaviors you want from your dog.

No click yet, no other marker, just a treat moving towards dog. Dog butt raises, treat recedes, and disappears. Dog's butt stays put, treat advances. After a few times of "driving the treat away", the dog gets it that remaining there "causes" the treat to come on in!

You can get to a point where you see the butt muscles tighten as the dog is "pushing" his butt to the floor to make that treat come on in. I love Premack stuff!

Then bring the treat in slower and slower so that the dog really has to work hard to "keep making that treat come in" and you should bring it in from all angles. All the while look at the great stay the dog is doing!

When the dog understands that treats will be delivered if you just stay there and watch 'em coming at you, then I attach the marker word "stay" **before** the treat. "Stay" predicts a treat is coming at ya!

Then start **300-Peck Sits** — ask for a

Sit, count to one, click and treat (c/t). TRY to put the food right in her mouth after each of these counted Sits. If you can't, it's not the end of the world, but try.

Sit, count to 2, c/t.

Sit, 3, c/t, and so on. Your criteria are important here. Under no circumstances do you want to tell a dog that she can move ANYTHING but her head or tail during a Stay, so if she moves ONE paw, or shifts her bum, she's broken the position.

Under 10 seconds, if she breaks the position, start your count over again from one second.

To summarize:

- \* treats moving at the dog only move in when the dog is still in position
- \* start with a high rate of reinforcement (short interval between "stay"/treat)
- \* increase the time between "stay" and the treat until you have : "stay" - your planned duration - treat

Then there is distance and distractions to cover too but first I like to get duration explained very clearly in tiny steps.

## Stay-Option 2

### Phase #1

This phase is always done with the dog close to you, do not step away from them yet.

With the dog at your left side, (sitting, standing, or in a down), say “Stay”, then quickly give the hand signal (open hand with palm toward dog, directly in front of dog’s face- DO NOT TOUCH THE DOG)

1. **Immediately** treat and release. Use your release word (Okay, Free, Done etc.) and treat so your dog has to walk a few steps out of the stay.
2. Repeat the above exercise, increasing the “stay” time to 1 second. Repeat at least 10 times.
3. Repeat the above exercise, increasing time to 3 seconds, and building up SLOWLY to 10 seconds one second at a time. We are trying for errorless learning here. If at any point your dog breaks the “stay” before you release him, go back to a lesser amount of time before building the time limit back up.

Repeat the above steps in a different location in the same room.

- a different room
- different places in the different rooms
- outside with no distractions
- outside with a little distraction- etc. etc.

Always start in each new location with a 1 second stay and SLOWLY build up your time to 10 second, 15, 30 etc.

### Phase #2

1. Teaching the dog to stay in front of you, at your right side, or any other position in relation to you.
2. With dog at your left side, say “stay” (voice and hand cue)
3. Pivot **directly in front** of the dog
4. Immediately treat and release
5. Follow the same procedure as the “stay” at the left side, building up time.
6. After the pivot to the front is reliable everywhere, pivot in front of your dog, remind “stay”, **then pivot back to the dog’s side**, immediately treat and release.
7. Repeat the above, starting the dog at **your right side**, repeating all the steps.
8. Sometimes pivot to the dog’s right side, sometimes to the dog’s left side, sometimes release in front, so the dog learns that “stay” means not to move until you release him.
9. Generalize the behavior as in Phase #1 with different locations, **always** starting with immediate release and working up to longer periods of time