



## HUMANE SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY

### Basic Obedience for Dogs

#### Handout #3

#### Stay

This cue will be your dog's next big challenge. You have already been working on wait and place. Both of those cues will have improved your dog's impulse control and given you the practice you need to start this new behavior.

- Sit / Stay: Place your dog in a sit.
- Hold a treat in front of your dog's nose, if he stays for a couple of seconds, deliver a food reward and verbal praise; "Good Dog. Use treats every 2-3 seconds to encourage behavior (staying).
- The distance at which you hold the treat is very important. Not too far away, because you do not want to cause the dog to get up to reach for the treat (remember we have been using lure and reward as a training tool) and not too close so he nibbles a reward you have not given.
- If he gets up, place him back in a sit and repeat.
- Gradually increase the duration of the stay. Don't expect your dog to stay for long periods right away. It takes a lot of practice.
- Once you have the stay at a five count, add the verbal and physical (hand signal) cue; "Buster, Stay" hold your hand up palm facing him = dog stays in a sitting position for 3 seconds = deliver food reward and verbal praise; "Good dog".
- Once you have the stay cue to a five count add a release cue such as "OK" or "All Done".
- Gradually phase out the continuous food reward.
- Down / Stay: Place your dog in a down position and repeat the instructions above.

#### **Sit / Stay Hints**

- ✓ This cue will take time and patience.
- ✓ Practice frequently for short periods of time.
- ✓ When you begin to teach this cue, your dog should be relaxed and tired.
- ✓ There are many components to a stay cue: Duration, Distraction and Distance (in this order). We will only work on one component at time, so you must be careful and teach / practice in a controlled environment.
- ✓ Advance to another component once your dog is responding reliably (80%).
- ✓ Our class setting will be a very difficult environment to begin teaching this cue. Think of our class as an introduction to a new behavior and understand the real learning starts at home when you practice.
- ✓ Don't get discouraged. Remember this is supposed to be fun☺