

Place and Stay Commands 3/2008

(Note:) Bee is about 12 weeks old and hups on command inside the house, in the back yard and in the field. She was introduced to the box in her backyard using these same steps.



Step 1:

Ask a friend to hold Bee while you walk back to the box. Eventually, you would like Bee to “Hup” and “Stay” without someone holding her.



Step 2.

Lightly tap the top of the box and say the word “PLACE”. (Do not say the pup's name to call him!) Keep tapping while repeating the word “PLACE” as the pup comes towards you to encourage it to jump onto the box. (As the pup learns this command, you will only need to tap the box.)

Step 3. Make your Pup hup on the box before rewarding. You may need to lift pup to position him on the box. Often they are like putty and its difficult to get them to sit properly.

Over time the pup will jump onto the box and sit on its own.





Step 4.

Stand and make sure Pup remains hupped by using the term “STAY”.

Stand still for several seconds so the pup learns to remain and stay on the box. Each day the length of time the dog stays should be increased.

The purpose of the box is to define a space that the dog must remain. Often you will see the dogs inch to the edge, hang limbs over the side just to see how far they can “push the envelope.”



Step 5.

Once your dog has learned to remain on the box for a period of 30 seconds, you should now begin to step away from the box.

At first, you will only take 1 step back, but over time, you should increase the distance.

If the pup starts to move, rapidly step forward and use your hand to make the “STAY” gesture and use your whistle (one single pip) to indicate stay.



Step 6.

Try to begin to circle the box. At first, the circles should be close enough to the box that you could stop the pup from jumping off.

Continue (over time) to increase the distance between you and the pup.

And, continue to increase the length of time the pup will remain on the box without getting off of it. Try to make circles both clockwise and counter clockwise.



Step 8.

Always step to the pup at this stage of training. Do not call the pup to you.

Reward the pup with a “good job”.