

Basic Hup & Stay-Paul's Input

Step 1:



Vicky is sitting on the kitchen floor with Sizzle. To this point Sizzle has had no formal training. At over four months, she is way behind her brother Pete. If this is not corrected in short order, she will never catch up. Vicky is petting her with her left hand and offering her a treat with the right.

I never try to push the pup's rear down. I wait for the pup to make that decision on its' own and then immediately reward it.

Step 2:



This is all about building a relationship, by sitting and talking to the pup, Vicky is encouraging eye contact. By previously offering her a treat, Vicky is giving Sizzle multiply reasons to stay close. Affection and food rewards.

Step 3:



Eventually Sizzle sits on her own accord. Immediately when she does, Vicky offers her a treat and praises her and at the same time repeating the word "hup".

Step 4:



Vicky will progressively leave Sizzle sitting in place for extended periods. It is important at this “early” stage that Sizzle is sitting on her own accord, and consequently her involuntary response is rewarded.

Step 5:



Sizzle is now keen to follow us around the kitchen looking for a treat. At this point I tell her to “hup” BEFORE she does on her own accord. When she does I reward her with a treat.

Step 6:



I now add a short blast on the whistle, followed by “hup”. Then I give the treat. I will phase out using the treat for the most part. At this juncture the whistle becomes an integral part of our relationship.

Step 7:



The relationship you form in the first seven months of the pup's life will dictate the relationship you share with the dog over its lifetime. There is a window of time leading up to when the pup's adult teeth are fully formed to establish this relationship. Wait too long and you never quite get the foundation suitably laid. Get it right and it becomes a solid scaffold to build on and return to. These formative months set the tone for the dog's life.