

To begin, weigh out your puppy's daily food allowance, remove a portion and put into a container for your pup's rewards throughout the day. You can use these for absolutely everything your pup does that needs rewarding.

The Down

The easiest way to teach your puppy a down is to already have them in a sit. From this position, have a treat in hand and placing in front of pup lower your hand to the floor and say 'Down'

Your puppy will follow your hand movement and drop into a down. Say 'Good Girl/Boy' and offer the reward to the pup.

Your puppy may paw at your hand or offer another behaviour, keep the treat tightly between fingers and thumb and wait for the down before rewarding.

The other way of teaching a down is from a stand. With treat in hand, palm to the floor, wave under your puppy's nose and draw a straight line down to the floor inbetween puppy's front legs. As his head comes down they will drop into a play bow, mark it with a 'Good Girl /Boy' and then gently move your hand with the reward towards their chest and paws, their rear end will drop. Offer the reward to your pup.

You can now get your pup to Sit, Down and then back into a Sit all for one reward. You are also teaching your pup hand signals not just verbal commands.

Produced by Rayleigh Canine Agility and Dog Training
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