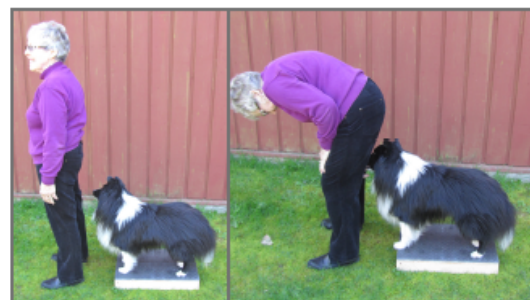


How to develop “behind” position moves Lyd, with help from Joan and Kathy

By way of introduction . . . I was at a Julie Flannery workshop last summer where we were shown how to use a small dog dish and a platform to teach “behind” position. Part of the training was giving the dog the treat between the handler’s legs. Wow, did the dogs ever snap into position quickly when we did that!

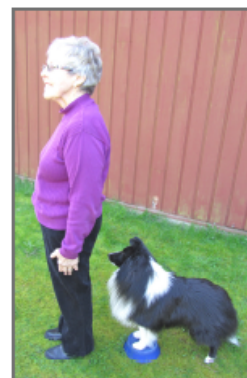
Using a platform to find the “behind” position

- If you’ve used a platform for right and left heel positions and for front, just follow the same sequence for the “behind” position. Put the platform behind you. Stand a little away from the platform to give room for the dog’s head. When the dog has all four feet on the platform, click (or voice-mark) and treat between the legs. It helps to have a mirror or training partner to let you know. Have the dog find this position from a variety of different starting points.
- remove the platform and repeat. (periodically refresh with the platform)



Using a dog dish - for rotation moves

- start with a comfortably large dish, placed upside down. The dog should be able to move while keeping the front paws on the dish.
- work on front and side positions before trying “behind” so that the dog understands the concept of the dish.
- put the dish behind you. When the dog steps up, click and treat between your legs.
- imagining a circle about a foot away from the dog, start moving in that circle with your back to your dog. (Having a circle marked out actually helps as a tendency is to move erratically) When the dog moves even a little in order to maintain the “behind” position, click and treat, gradually raising the criteria.
- reduce the size of the dish and eventually lose the dish.



Other moves:

Position changes

- use a mirror to check that the dog is doing what you are asking it to do – sit, stand, down, bow – while maintaining position.
- Treat between legs



Passes

- work moving to the left and moving to the right. Treat when dog moves into position, gradually increasing criteria.

Paws

- have dogs put paws on your feet or calves as you walk forward. Start with raising feet obviously so that the dog can put its paws on the feet then gradually convert to just walking – perhaps with an exaggerated lean to give more of a target for the dog to hit



Hug

-Once the dog knows to go behind you, teach it to put both paws up and head down (use lure or whatever works for you). Gradually eliminate the lure. With a mid-size dog, handler may have to sit lower or sit on a platform. With a small dog, you would need something for it to stand on.

Back to back

- This starts as an “in front” move. Work first on having the dog turn 180° to face away from you. A touch-stick and platform are good tools to help with this. Once the dog is moving to the touch-stick, keep the dog in that position and move to the front of the dog to give the dog the treat. This will keep the dog in this position for a longer time. Fade the touch-stick (point with your hand, reduce gesture, then just voice command) and remove the platform. (you will have to go back to touch-stick and platform for periodic refreshers). Once the move is solid with you facing the dog, start turning at the same time as the dog so that you are back to back. Continue to click/treat as you were before. From there, you can have the dog walk backwards as you walk forwards or stay as you walk away then back into you or through your legs.