

## How to Train and develop “Away” moves Advisor: Ray

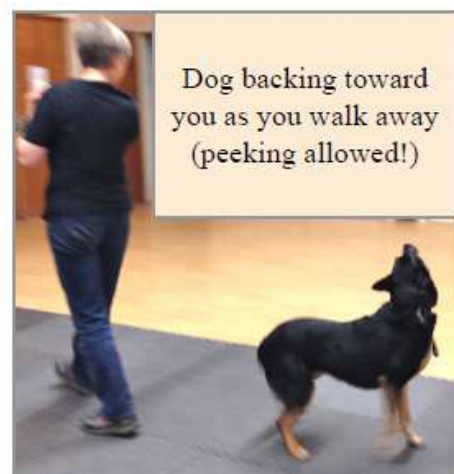
**Definition:** an “away” move is a move in which the dog faces away from the handler.

**Challenge:** You’ve worked diligently to have the dog watch you. Asking it to now look away may create some anxiety and confusion in the dog. Make sure you start this in an environment where the dog feels safe.

**Starting off:** use a lure, target, or touch stick to have dog point away from you. Alternatively, gently hold the dog in the away position. Once the dog is performing the movement with assistance, put a name on the behavior and gradually fade the aid. If your dog responds to a “hold” command, use the command along with the “away” command to keep it looking off. Be patient, rewarding small steps. If you must use a “no,” do so sparingly and only once the dog knows the command; and reward the dog when it follows with the correct behavior. Depending on what movement you want, you may have to allow some peeking, particularly if you are moving away from the dog. Vary how you reward the dog. You could reach over while still being behind the dog, or you can move around to be in front of your dog. Either way, try to reward the dog before it breaks from the position. Be sure to have a consistent and solid “away” before adding distance and movement.

### Variations:

- **Sit Facing Away:** easiest since it is easy to reward and you can be close enough that the dog can still see you if it tilts back a bit.
- **Down Facing Away:** you could start beside the dog and walk around it. You may want to leave a treat in front of the dog to start. Gradually increase distance.
- **Into Stand in front, Facing Away:** A versatile position. Dog can go into this position in a variety of ways
  - from a front, dog turns 180° to face away
  - from front, dog does a 360° turn and then 180° more to face away (try both directions)
  - from a heel, dog does a front then a 180°
  - from a heel or between the legs, dog goes straight forward into an away
- **Variations of Stand – adding distance and movement**
  - from an away position, both dog and handler move forward
  - handler back away from dog and return - gradually increasing distance
  - handler back away from dog and have dog back up into you
  - handler pivot 180° to be back to back with the dog
  - handler pivot 180°, walk away from dog and have dog back toward you
  - handler slowly pivot while directing dog to maintain relative position with hind end close to handler’s legs
  - from an away position, dog moves forward away from handler
  - handler slowly pivot while dog is in a distant away position, and have dog maintain the relative position
  - From an away position, dog raises paw. Gradually increase distance.



More variations on next page . . .

- **Other Variations**

- from a 180° turn, dog goes onto hind legs and backs into handler (gradually increase distance the dog backs)
- from an away position, does a sit, bow, or down while continuing to face away
- from an away down position, dog crawls backward as handler backs away
- from a side-by-side position, handler looks one way; the dog looks the other way
- Dog stands on your leg looking toward your foot (restrictions may apply!)



- Check out this lovely routine which includes many away moves, particularly at the start.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqlGn-K42U8>