

Basic Cues

Please appreciate that dogs can recognise many words from our vocabulary but do not respond to sentences. Without short words consistently applied the dog will be confused about what you want them to do.

Regular practice and application using the following “cues” that the dog can become familiar with, will mean they will start to understand what you would like them to do.

Watch Me: Make eye contact with dog and hold it. Say “Yes” and give treat. Vital for getting the dog to focus on you. Should be practised regularly.

Sit: Lift arm from elbow with back of hand towards the dog.

Down: Make downward movement with flat hand.

Up: Move backward raising arm, including if on lead.

Stay - Will always return to the dog: If you are moving away and going to return to the dog later: Use flat hand towards the dog with fingers upwards.

Wait – something will follow after: To stop the dog moving: Through a door for example. Use lightly clenched fist with one finger upwards.

Come: To recall the dog either from a distance or after the Stay command. Your voice and mannerisms will need to sound more exciting than whatever is taking the dog’s attention at that moment..

With Me! An alternative recall cue if your voice is too low when saying “Come”.

Off: If jumping up or on furniture etc. Alternatively distract with another Cue “With Me” or “Sit”.

Let’s Go: To start a walk from sit, stand or stay.

Steady: To control the dog from walking too fast on the lead/pulling.

Quick Quick: When walking on the lead to go faster/run: Then “steady” to slow down again.

Leave: To stop dog from doing something such as picking up food. Alternatively distract with another “Cue”.

Give: When the dog is holding a ball or other object.

Stand: Good for vet visits and towel drying your dog down! Move flat of the hand from the dog's nose sideways.

NB:

The Dog should:

- Sit to have the lead put on or taken off.
- Sit at kerbside, waiting to cross and wait for the Cue "Let's Go"
- Sit before entering a doorway and always come in after you.
- Not go into a river or the sea without a permission. **Go Be Good:** Is the Cue the dog to relieve itself on cue. Very useful at night or before entering a shop or restaurant (in an appropriate place of course!). Also use "Busy Busy".