

Wait

What does the behavior look like?

The dog stops forward motion at the point the handler cued the behavior. The dog can sit, move backwards or lie down once he has stopped.

Why should we learn it?

The wait behavior can be used in a variety of settings and environments. This is a behavior most useful behind doorways (at home or in the car) or on trails when your dog is off leash and you need him to stop.

Training:

Step One: Training the Cue

1. Stand between a door or threshold and the dog.
2. Start moving slowly toward the door - backing up.
3. Cue with a verbal "Wait" followed by a windshield wiper hand signal at the dog's eye level.
 - a. You may use a slight turn of the leg for the shorter dogs.
 - b. If the dog moves forward, lean slightly toward the dog, then slightly away- social pressure.
 - c. This is using your body to block continued forward movement.
4. Mark the dog for stopping and not moving forward. (Please review our **Marker & Release Cues** handout).
5. Reinforce the dog where they are waiting.
6. Turn your body to the side and "Release" the dog to go through the door.

Step Two: Fade the Body Language

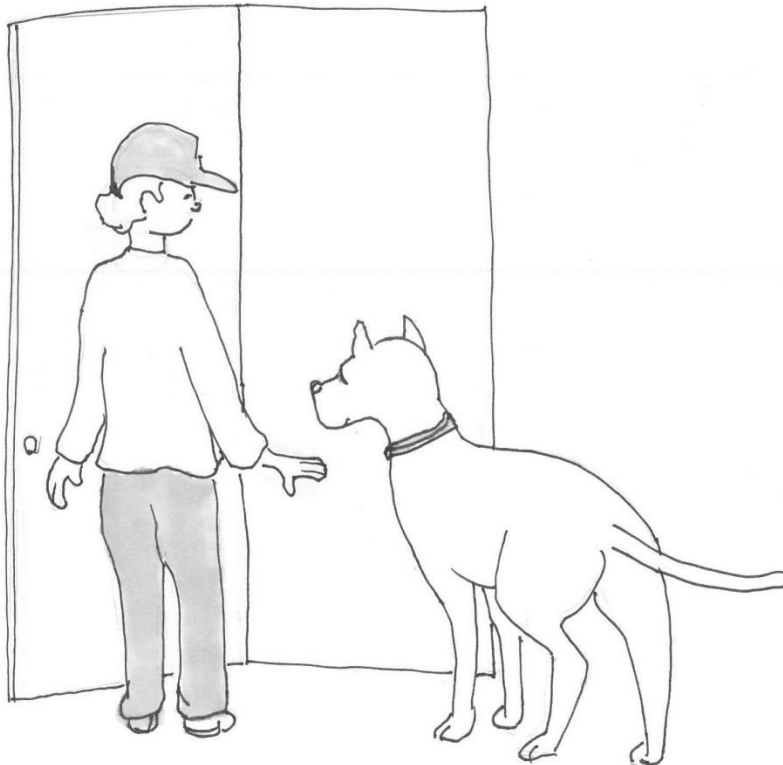
1. Once the dog starts to hesitate at the body block, repeat the above steps but instead of using your whole body to block the access, turn your body slightly to the side as you start fading your body to block access.
2. Use the same verbal cue of "Wait" followed by a hand/leg signal.
3. Mark the dog for not moving forward.
4. Reinforce the dog where they are waiting.
5. "Release" the dog to go through the threshold with you.

Step Three: Remove the Body Language

1. Once the dog consistently hesitates with little body blocking at the side, with the dog in a wait, slowly step forward through the threshold with the leg away from the dog.
2. Mark the dog for not moving forward.
3. Go back and reinforce the dog where he is waiting.
4. "Release" the dog to go through the threshold with you.

Advanced Training and Application:

- Make sure you do not have food in your hand when you give the hand signal. This can look like a lure to your dog.
- Switch to a verbal only “Wait” by removing the hand signal.
- The wait behavior is not threshold dependent. Practice this behavior away from thresholds with the dog in front of you or behind you.
- Build a moving wait by slowly stepping away from the dog. If the dog steps to follow you, go back to building the wait slowly with minimal movement.



Training Resources:

Marin Humane’s **Behavior & Training** conducts various training classes. Sign up on our [Behavior & Training](#) page for the next available class series.

We also provide **Dog Training Instructors** and **Consultants** available for private training or consultations (on-site or in-home) at 415.506.6280 or OhBeHAVE@MarinHumane.org.

Remember to license your dog (It’s the LAW)! If your dog gets lost, a license tag on your dog’s collar is the fastest way to reunite you and your dog. Even if your dog is microchipped, a license tag is immediately visible and doesn’t require a scanning device to read. For more information about licensing, microchipping, and other services provided by **Marin Humane**, visit us at MarinHumane.org or stop by at 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd, Novato, CA.