

PAW SHAPING SUCCESS PAW

Teaching Your Puppy to Sit and Down Using Shaping Methods

Shaping means rewarding your puppy for small steps in the right direction. Your puppy thinks, offers a behavior, and is rewarded. Over time, those small steps shape into the final behavior.

Breeding With Integrity



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TEACHING SIT WITH SHAPING PAW

Goal: Your puppy sits on cue.

1 CAPTURE THE SIT

Place food at nose and push back with hand and hold food until puppy sits. The moment their bottom touched the ground say "yes!" and give treat.



2 ADD A CUE

Once your puppy is sitting reliably, say "SIT" just before they sit. Reward when they do.



3 INCREASE CRITERIA

Wait for a calmer, more focused sit. Gradually increase the time your puppy remains seated before rewarding.



4 ADD DISTRACTIONS AND DURATION

Practice in different locations and around distractions. Add duration slowly.



TEACHING DOWN WITH SHAPING PAW

Goal: Your puppy lies down on cue.

1 CAPTURE THE DOWN

Capture the down with the same method – moving from sit to lowering hand. The moment their elbows hit the ground say "Yes" and give a treat.



2 SHAPE LOWER

If your puppy offers a play bow (front down, rear up), reward that. Then wait for them to go a little lower. Reward progress.



3 ADD A CUE

Once your puppy is reliably lying down, say "DOWN" just before they do. Reward when they do.



4 INCREASE CRITERIA AND DURATION

Ask for calmer, longer downs. Add distance and distractions slowly.



GENERAL TIPS

- PAW Use small, tasty treats or some of the puppy's food.
- PAW Reward often in the beginning.
- PAW Keep sessions short (2-5 minutes).
- PAW Be patient and consistent.
- PAW End on a success!

WHY SHAPING WORKS

Shaping builds confidence, encourages thinking, and creates a strong partnership between you and your puppy.



Celebrate Small Wins!

Every tiny step forward is progress. With time, patience, and plenty of rewards, your puppy will proudly sit and down on cue!



TRAIN WITH KINDNESS. LEAD WITH LOVE. BUILD A PARTNERSHIP THAT LASTS.

Happy Training! PAW