

Stay

The sixth step in your training program.

Each time you have a training session, increase your pup's stay time. In a few weeks, he'll be able to remain in one spot without any problem. Practice the stay exercise with the down position as well. Remember to vary all of the exercises in order to keep your puppy attentive and learning to listen to you rather than learning a pattern.

When your pup is able to remain in the sit/stay for upwards of 30 seconds, it is time to introduce the next variable: moving around him as he remains sitting. This needs to be done with a gradual increase of movement. You begin by stepping side to side while you face your pup. Then, the next time you do a stay command, step on either side of him from head to back legs on both sides. When your pup learns to remain sitting throughout your movements, you can begin doing a complete circle around him.

Always place your puppy back into the sit position every time he gets up. He must be replaced as close as possible to the original location where you told him to perform his sit/stay. This way, he learns to remain where you told him to stay, not where he chooses to stay. Even being allowed to scoot into a position following your movements will decrease the possibility of your pup learning to stay in one place. He must remain where you put him, facing the same direction. His head can follow your movements, but his body can't. This is a difficult concept to young puppies, but one that is important to learn.

As your pup accepts your walking around him, try doing so in both directions. Then begin to increase your distance as you move around him. Add a foot or two of space between you and your pup each time you do a sit/stay. Within a week or two, you should be able to get 6 feet away from him as he remains in his sit/stay.

Practice this exercise with the down/stay as well. The only difference will be that, instead of your stepping side-to-side in front of your pup, you'll begin your side-to-side movements along his right side and proceed to walk around by going around his back end first. While lying down, your pup is less likely to pop up if you go behind him, for he's not as attracted to your moving away from him as he is to your walking in front of him.

Next Step: [Leash Training](#) | [More Puppy Lesson Plans](#)

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