

Luring the Down Cue Handout



Steps:

1. Place your handful of treats about 1 inch in front of the dog's nose and encourage them to touch their nose to it. Once the dog is in a sit position and her nose stuck to the lure, begin moving your hand slowly downward toward the ground moving a little towards their chest. Aim for between the dog's front feet. Their nose should stay on your hand the entire time you are luring them. If their nose falls away or they get up from the sitting position, you are moving too fast. Start over again by placing the lure on their nose and slowly luring the front half of their body toward the ground.
2. Once you have successfully lured the dog's nose to the ground, begin slowly dragging your hand along the ground away from their body until they lie down. The down is complete when their rear end is on the ground and their elbows touch the ground.
3. Give the Release cue before they move out of the Down position. Generously praise and pet them once they get up from the Down position.
4. After pairing the cue right before the lured behavior 10 times in a row, say the cue and wait for the dog to perform the behavior. It may take a few seconds for them to think through the process; be patient. If the dog does not Down immediately, do not repeat the cue. Say "Oops" and try waiting. If they do not Down within 5 seconds, lure them into position with your baited hand and say "Down" just before their elbows touch the ground.
5. Practice until the dog will Down upon hearing the verbal cue and waits to be released at least 90 percent of the time. At this point, you can proceed to add the cue "Focus" to the behavior.

Hand Signal: Pointing to the ground.

Verbal Cue: Down/Lay



Luring To the Ground

If the dog pops back up again while you are luring their nose toward the ground, you will need to shape the behavior by breaking each part into tiny increments and reinforcing each one.

1. Place the lure on the dog's nose and slowly lower the lure about 2 inches. As they follow the lure downward, click or say "Yes" and reward them with a treat. Practice this step two to three times.
2. Now lower the treat closer to the ground and mark the behavior as they follow the lure downward. Mark and reward. Continue to lower the lure downward until the dog's nose touches the ground, then say "Yes" followed by the reward.

Note: The luring pattern resembles an "L" shape. Just before their rear end and elbows touch the ground, say "Down", then "yes" followed by the reward.