



# FRIENDLY CREATURES

Your solution to animal behavioural problems

## Down



Make it easy for the dog the first few times. Have a lure in your hand (a treat that the dog can smell but is secure in your hand) and kneel in front of your dog. Lure your dog down with an exaggerated hand movement ending up with the treat on the ground in front of your dog and then slide your hand forward away from your dog. Your dog may try to nose the treat out of your hand, or paw you. Ignore the unwanted behaviours. Give the dog 30 seconds to attempt some of the movements leading to lying down (eg, lowering head, lowering shoulders slightly). If he does, say "Good!" and release the treat. If he doesn't, look away and relax before setting it up again. When you have shoulders going down to the ground consistently, expect a full down before you say "Good!" and treat. You can add the cue

“Down” to the behaviour when he consistently lies down with the lure.

Progress this to asking for “Down” with no lure, and then from standing or further away.

Some dogs struggle with this method, so you may need to lure your dog under your leg or a low coffee table to get the down action. As before, say “Good!” and treat as they lower themselves to come under the object.

An alternative method is to go with your dog to a very small room (eg. Bathroom) and close the door. Sit down and ignore your dog and wait. Most dogs will eventually lie down as there is nothing else to do. As they do, say “Good!” and treat. Then go back to reading and ignoring your dog again until he forgets about you and treats and lies down again. Again mark and treat. Do this several times over the course of a few days until the dog lie down quickly. Add the cue “Down” to the behaviour.

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