

FABULOUS FREE STACKS

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Fabulous....

Most dogs do not free stack naturally because

- a) there isn't typically a squirrel they can look at, and
- b) Dogs are comfortable with their back feet slightly too close to their front feet.



Fabulous....

You must then ask the dog to move her front feet a step or two forward to separate them from the back feet.

Anchor the rear

When you ask a dog to move forward, s/he typically starts with her rear feet first – and that doesn't help. To move the front feet forward, you'll need to first anchor her back legs.

She can't move her front feet ahead, but you can ask her to move them side to side.

STEP 1

- ▶ Teach the pup to be comfortable standing – nothing more, just stand
- ▶ Do not use a leash to help position the dog
- ▶ C/T when standing
- ▶ Do not name this behavior

STEP 2

- ▶ Handle the muzzle and C/T – be gentle
- ▶ Use fingertips
- ▶ Get the pup to accept your hand on the muzzle

STEP 3

- ▶ Move pup's head and hand stack
- ▶ Move Head Left – for the right front leg to reposition
- ▶ Move Head Right – for the left front leg to reposition
- ▶ Lift and place feet (from elbow/hock)

STEP 4

Your dog now wants to:

- ▶ remain standing,
- ▶ is comfortable with you holding her muzzle and
- ▶ moving her head back and forth,
- ▶ and lifting and placing her feet from the elbow and hock.

Fabulous...now, let's FREE STACK!

When hand stacking, you physically moved the head to the left, shifting the dog's weight to the left to shift balance and release her right leg.

Now, you're going to do the same thing, but you're going to simply lure the head to the left rather than moving it physically.



Fabulous....

Lure with bait at first because you're looking for very subtle movements of the feet.

Then, lure with your hand as a target.

Fabulous....

1. Dog standing, facing to your right (do not use leash!)
2. With your right hand, bait at front of nose
3. SLOWLY move/lure nose to dog's left
4. Watch the right front foot. Dog's weight shifts to the left, the right front foot will start to lift.
5. C/T! Try it again (then to the other side!)

Finishing touch...

If the dog doesn't pull her weight forward when she's stacked, she's going to look like she's posting.

Finishing touch....

- ▶ You've taught her to anchor her back feet, and to move her front feet from side to side.
- ▶ She can't move her front feet straight forward.

Anchor the front

- ▶ You are now anchoring the front feet.
- ▶ Stack the dog with feet where you want them, and then lure very, very slowly forward. Watch carefully - if you pull too far or too fast, dog will step forward and you'll have to pull the lure away quickly and start again.

Anchor the front

C/T the shift forward.

Practice!

Review the slides again and practice one thing at a time. Do not practice with your leash on.

Anchor the rear

Move head left or right

Anchor the front

Shift weight forward