



Be deliberate with your body and voice

If you watch a skilled competition obedience exhibitor, you will notice that they are very aware of their movements and words. Try not to use a lot of words or excessive body motions when working with your dog. This minimalist demeanor will help you focus on the behavior you are teaching your dog –and the scene you present will be less cluttered with extraneous words and motions, and will therefore be clear to your dog. Train well and have fun!

Exercise: PLATFORM SKILLS

Get Prepared: A supply of proper training gear will make your sessions go more smoothly! **Food Treats:** Use tiny, soft food treats that your dog can swallow quickly. **Leash and Collar:** Six foot leash and flat buckle collar or limited slip martingale. **Other stuff:** Clicker, a toy motivator that does not roll, disc platform; upbeat, super attitude!

Game 1: Dog learns to place front feet on a disc. Shape or lure the dog

Method: Reward when dog puts one front foot on the disc, then eventually reward for two front feet.

Game 2: Dog keeps front feet up position even as you move around the disc

Method: Staying close to your dog, move slightly in either direction with your hands centered in front of your dog. Treat immediately for any movement. Slowly increase the number of steps the dog must take before rewarding. Don't worry about the dog being straight in front of you for this exercise. Continue until your dog can do 180 degrees in either direction. You should be moving slowly so your dog is controlling their movement.

Break Fun!

Game 3: Dog accepts pressure of your body near the disc

Method: Teach your dog to be comfortable with your feet very close to the disc in both front and side position. Your feet should be centered and facing the disc, or parallel to the dog when you are standing next to the dog (heel position). If your dog avoids you and tries to leave the disc as you move in closer, take your time, this is normal. If your dog tries to come to the front position when you move to the side, use a piece of food on the outside of his head to hold him still.