

Obedience Terminology

Off: Use the word “OFF” when you want your dog to stay off the counter, off the table, off people, off couch etc ... Do not use the word “Down” to ask the dog to get off the couch etc... The word down only implies that they lie down and certainly if we see our dog on the counter we wouldn't want to say “down” when we really meant off!

Down: This word is used to tell the dog to lie down. This is NOT to be used to get off things like counters, people, chairs, sofas etc..... use OFF instead! Make it a habit to say down and mean what you say. The dog must lie down and remain there until you release it with a release word.

Stay: Use this word when training your dog to stay put in one spot till you give it a release word. Very important not to abuse this word! If you need to tell your dog to “stay” but you only mean for the dog not to come with you or go out the door then use another word like “stay there” say that word together! Or even say the word “wait” or “just a minute” or something that would be different than the “stay” command for obedience.

Come: Use this word when you want your dog to come towards you but not necessarily sit in front of you. This is a very easily abused word! You can also use other words such as “lets go”, “comon” etc... to have the dog follow you but not necessarily come directly to you. DO NOT say ‘Heel’ for come as the “heel word is used in obedience competitions. If you are not doing obedience competitions...the word HEEL can be used when you are out in the park and you want the dog back by your side as you are walking...then that would be fine.

FRONT: use this word when you want for your dog to come to you and sit straight in front of you. This word is good to use when training for obedience competitions.

Finish: Use this word only to have your dog finish from the front position. The finish is telling the dog to go from the sit in front of you to finishing the exercise to the left side of your body. This is not to be confused with the word “heel”.

Reel: use this word to have your dog heel on your left side when you are walking, doing the obedience patterns and figure eights.

Remember, it is very important that you establish a consistent routine and use the same terminology for each command. Also, remember to use the release word which could be “free”, yeaaaaa, playtime”, atta girl (attaboy), or something that tells the dog that it is released from its position. Do not use GOOD DOG as that is a praise word. If you forget to release your dog then it will start breaking it's position...once this happens it will cause much aggravation and it will be hard to fix- so start the right way first time.

If you come up with any new terminology's that would help or any ideas that would be useful, let me know!

Any questions? Please feel free to email me! simcorgi@aol.com