

# THE RUFF LIFE

Professional Dog Training

phone 250.550.0390 | monique@therufflife.ca | www.therufflife.ca

## The Down Command

When a dog lies down for you this means it has finally accepted you as the “leader of the pack”. Most dogs will resist this, and try to defy you on the down command. That's why we begin with “Treat Training” which the dog enjoys. This keeps the training positive.

### QUICK TIPS:

- ★ One Word, One Time.
- ★ Start to stand up, or you will always have a sore back. Commands should be done from an up right position.
- ★ Give your dog 2 seconds to respond before you correct. Be sure not to correct and command at the same time.
- ★ **DO NOT** say, “Stay” there is no reason to complicate the command.
- ★ Remember your down correction is down & the sit is up.
- ★ Don't ask your dog to go DOWN, command it (That is why they are called commands)

**Weak corrections will only encourage your dog to resist you more. This applies to all commands- but especially the DOWN command.**

### IMPORTANT:

Your dog should be performing the sit command consistently before you start the down command. Mix in a few sit commands while teaching DOWN. If your dog lies down on the sit command make the correction by lifting them back into the sit by tugging up on the leash.

### HOME WORK:

- ★ You will need to get to the end of your leash by next session, same as sit.
- ★ Don't forget to constantly praise your dog- tell them that what they are doing is what you want
- ★ Remember to keep it fun!

## Holding The Down (Stay)

After you teach your dog to obey the DOWN command, the next step is to teach it to hold the down position with distractions. This is similar to teaching your dog to hold the sit position.

### QUICK TIPS:

- ★ Bring your dog back to the spot they broke from- Remember not to let them creep.
- ★ Always come all the way back to release your dog- Never do it from far away or they will learn when you get to the end of the leash they can break
- ★ Be Exciting!
- ★ If your dog is pushing you on this command, you still have not established leadership.
- ★ Use any distraction you can think of (Sticks, kids, leaves, hats, food...etc.)

**Weak corrections will only encourage your dog to resist you more. This applies to all commands- but especially the DOWN command.**

### HOME WORK:

- ★ Mix up your training. Don't always do just sits or just downs. Make sure your dog is not assuming what you are going to do next.

### ACCELERATED LEARNING

Pack as much praise and corrections as you possible can into each training session. Be consistent in finding every possible opportunity to make a correction. Your dog will quickly realize they have to pay close attention to earn your praise and avoid the correction. **If you find excuses to avoid making corrections, your dog will pick up on it immediately and fight you every step of the way.** Every time you have an opportunity to praise your dog or have some fun, take advantage of it. Your dog will quickly realize that training can be very rewarding and as a result...learn much faster.