

TRAINING LEVELS

STEPS TO SUCCESS

LEVEL 1

LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3

LEVEL 4

LEVEL 1

In which we meet this amazing being we'll be working with, and begin our journey into communication. Or, in other words, we start getting some idea of how to tell the little twerp what we want from her!

BEHAVIOUR	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
ZEN	Dog moves away from treat in seated trainer's hand	Dog stays away from treat in closed hand, 5 seconds	Dog stays away from treat in open hand, 5 seconds	Dog stays away from treat in dog dish in hand	Practise with more hands, more treats, more places
COME	Dog looks for treats at trainer's feet	Dog runs 10' between 2 people	Dog plays Come Game between 2 people 10' apart	Dog plays Come Game between 2 people 20' apart	Dog comes for good things in other places
SIT	Dog sits with leash off	Dog sits with hand signal only	Dog sits with leash on	Dog sits by open door	Dog sits in other places for other people
TARGET	Dog touches trainer's hand with nose	Dog reaches high and low to touch hand	Dog takes 3 steps to touch hand	Dog touches hand twice to get one click/treat	More hands, more treats, more places
DOWN	Dog downs with leash off	Dog downs with hand signal only	Dog downs with trainer seated	Dog relearns Steps 1 to 3 with leash on	Dog downs to earn pat or dish or open door
HOMEWORK	List five things you hope to accomplish by working the Levels with your dog.				



WELCOME

Stitch

Stitch's Blog

Events

Scuba

Training Levels Steps To Success

email Sue

This site and the writing on it is copyright Sue Ailsby. Feel free to use it personally or for class handouts. To hand it out, you must include a credit to Sue Ailsby and include my email address. And I'd appreciate hearing about how you're

TRAINING LEVELS

STEPS TO SUCCESS

[LEVEL 1](#)

LEVEL 2

[LEVEL 3](#)[LEVEL 4](#)

LEVEL 2

In which both dog and trainer begin to trust each other and their ability to speak to each other. They start working on many new behaviours.

BEHAVIOUR	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
ZEN	Dog moves away from uncovered treat on floor	Dog stays off treat on floor for 10 seconds	Dog stays off treat on floor for 30 seconds	Dog doesn't get treat on floor	Zen traps and defaults
FOCUS	Dog finds trainer's eyes	Dog holds eye contact for 2 seconds	Dog holds eye contact for 6 seconds	Dog holds eye contact for 10 seconds	Use eye contact as proof of being In The Game
COME	Dog comes 10' to trainer working alone	Dog comes 10' to have her leash put on	Dog comes 40' to trainer	Dog comes 40' to have her leash put on	Concentrate on come as a good thing
DOWN	Dog stays down for 10 seconds	Dog stays down for 1 minute	Dog stays down while trainer walks 10' away and returns	Dog stays down while trainer walks 20' away, stays away for 1 minute and returns	Teaching default cues and reducing the number of clicks
SIT	Dog sits while trainer walks 5' away and	Dog sits while trainer walks 5' away,	Dog sits while trainer walks 10' away,	Dog sits while trainer walks around her	Applying sits to life

[WELCOME](#)[Stitch](#)[Stitch's Blog](#)[Events](#)[Scuba](#)

[Training Levels Steps To Success](#)

[email Sue](#)

This site and the writing on it is copyright Sue Ailsby. Feel free to use it personally or for class handouts. To hand it out, you must include a credit to Sue Ailsby and include my email address. And I'd appreciate hearing about how you're using it

	returns	stays away for 30 seconds and returns	stays away for 1 minute and returns		
LAZY LEASH	Dog moves away from collar pressure	Dog keeps leash loose in place for 5 seconds, 5 steps forward, turn around	Dog keeps leash loose with treat on floor at her feet, takes one step	Dog keeps leash loose while trainer and dog walk past treat on floor	Steps 1 to 4 in new places
TARGET	Dog touches wooden object in trainer's hand	Dog touches plastic object in trainer's hand	Dog touches metal object in trainer's hand	Dog touches sticky note on the wall	Dog closes a cabinet door
GO TO MAT	Dog goes to her mat	Dog goes 2' to mat and downs on it	Dog goes 5' to Down on Mat	Dog goes 2' to new Mat	Dog practises "parking" on Mat
CRATE	Dog enters crate with no lure	Dog enters crate and lies down	Dog lies down for 10 seconds in crate	Dog lies down for 30 seconds in crate	Different rooms, different crates, different activities
DISTANCE	Dog walks around a pole	Dog walks around a pole 2' from trainer	Dog walks around a pole 5' from trainer	Dog walks around a new pole 2' from trainer	Dog walks through a door, turns to face trainer on original side
JUMP	Dog goes over bar on floor	Dog goes 2' to go around pole with bar on floor	Dog goes 2' to go around pole with bar 4" above floor	Dog goes 5' to go around pole with 6" jump	Using jumps in life

RELAX	Dog relaxes	Dog gets excited and then relaxes	Dog settles and stays relaxed for 1 minute	Dog settles for 1 minute, gets excited, settles 1 minute, gets excited, settles 1 minute	Dog settles in car
HANDLING	Dog allows trainer to touch her head and tail	Dog allows trainer to touch her feet	Dog allows trainer to handle her ears, muzzle, tail	Dog allows trainer to brush her ears, muzzle, body, feet, tail	Dog allows clippers, pills, thermometer, toothbrush
COMMUNICA-TION	Dog backs up	Dog moves out of trainer's personal space	Dog moves out of trainer's personal space to trainer's left	Dog untangles leash from around trainer and a pole	Dog untangles leash from front leg
TRICK	Dog performs a new trick				
HOMEWORK	Why might a dog not "obey a command"? Give 10 possible reasons.				



TRAINING LEVELS

STEPS TO SUCCESS

LEVEL 1LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3

LEVEL 4

LEVEL 3

In which the trainer begins to see life with the dog as a partnership and begins to see the dog as a team member. Friends start commenting on the dog's good behaviour.

BEHAVIOUR	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
ZEN	Dog does not attempt to dash through just-opened door	Dog waits 30 seconds for invitation to go through on opened door, no cue	Dog waits 1 minute while trainer carries items in and out opened door	Dog waits inside door for 1 minute while trainer greets a disinterested person	More real life and real people situations
FOCUS	Dog holds eye contact for 15 seconds	Dog holds eye contact for 5 seconds from 2' away	Dog holds eye contact for 10 seconds from 5' away	Dog holds eye contact for 10 seconds, trainer not looking at dog	Use eye contact as proof of being In The Game in more difficult circumstances
COME	Dog comes 5' with distractions	Dog comes 20' through or away from dogs and people	Dog comes 40' through or away from distractions	Dog comes 60' through or away from dogs and people	Dog comes with her own personal nightmare distraction
SIT	Dog sits up from down	Dog sits up from down 2' from trainer	Dog sits up from down 5' from trainer	Dog downs from sit 5' from trainer	Applying sit to life

WELCOMEStitchStitch's BlogEventsScuba

Training Levels Steps To Success

email Sue

This site and the writing on it is copyright Sue Ailsby. Feel free to use it personally or for class handouts. To hand it out, you must include a credit to Sue Ailsby and include my email address. And I'd appreciate hearing about how you're using it

DOWN	Dog stays down while trainer goes in and out of sight 3 times	Dog stays down while trainer goes out of sight for 10 seconds and returns	Dog stays down while trainer goes out of sight for 30 seconds and returns	Dog stays down while trainer goes out of sight for 30 seconds and returns, one distraction	Dog stays down while trainer goes down the hall to the linen closet
LAZY LEASH	Dog keeps leash loose while team walks through outside door	Dog keeps leash loose while team walks 10' to single focal point outdoors	Dog keeps leash loose while team walks 10' forward, turns, 10' back with dogs and people in area	Dog keeps leash loose while team walks 20' forward and back with personal distractions	More work on that personal distraction
RETRIEVE	Dog puts spoon, pen, and another object in her mouth	Dog and trainer together hold object for 5 seconds	Dog and trainer hold object 5 seconds, then dog alone 5 seconds, then both 5 seconds	Dog moves to put object in mouth from trainer's hand	More objects, more places
TARGET	Dog puts front paws up on horizontal surface	Dog holds paws up on small horizontal surface 5 seconds	Dog puts paws up on vertical surface	Dog holds paws up on vertical surface 5 seconds	Using paws up in life
CRATE	Dog enters crate, downs, trainer walks 5' away	Dog enters, downs, trainer goes 5' away, stays 1 minute, returns	Dog enters, downs, trainer goes 10' away, 2 minutes, returns	Dog enters, downs, trainer goes 10' away, 3 minutes, returns	Different crate, vet's crates, crate in moving vehicle

RELAX	Dog settles for 3 minutes	Dog settles in sight of other dogs playing	Dog settles for 3 minutes in sight of other dogs playing	Dog settles in moving vehicle	Dog settles on sofa while trainer grooms her
DISTANCE	Dog goes around chair	Dog goes around chair 5' away	Dog goes around chair 5' away, no treats	Dog goes around chair 10' away	Dog goes around other things
JUMP	Dog waits while car door is open, gets in when told	Dog waits 30 seconds after door is opened, gets out on cue	Dog exits car on cue, waits with loose leash 10 seconds before trainer moves away from car	Dog waits 10 seconds for cue to enter car. Door is closed, re-opened. Dog waits 30 seconds for cue to exit, waits 10 seconds with loose leash for trainer to move on	Different vehicle or different door in same vehicle
GO TO MAT	Dog goes 2' to new mat, downs on it for 1 minute	Dog goes 5' to another new mat off ground, downs for 2 minutes	Dog goes 10' to another new mat, downs 1 minute with 1 distraction	Dog goes 10' to new mat, downs 3 minutes, no treats	Dog goes to mat when doorbell rings, no other cues
HANDLING	Dog downs and relaxes on table for 2 minutes	Dog allows stranger to touch her on table.	Dog allows stranger to touch her on table while relaxed	Dog allows stranger to touch her head, tail, foot on table while relaxed	Dog allows vet or vet tech to examine her on table while relaxed
COMMUNICA-TION	Dog paw-targets hand	Dog rings hanging bell	Dog rings bell to ask to go outside	Dog raises right front paw	Dog raises right front paw to ask for food or toy

- [Back to Introduction](#)
- [LEVEL 1](#)
- [LEVEL 2](#)
- [LEVEL 3](#)
- [LEVEL 4](#)

HOMEWORK

List 5 areas where you can get behaviour you didn't used to think you would, and 5 areas where you want or need a behaviour that you haven't quite got yet.



SITE
METER

TRAINING LEVELS

STEPS TO SUCCESS

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	---------

LEVEL 4

In which dog and trainer understand how to communicate with each other and are ready to continue their lives together as they are, or go on to exciting dogsports and jobs.

BEHAVIOUR	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
ZEN	Dog stays off treat on coffee table for 1 minute	Dog stays off treat on coffee table while trainer steps in and out of sight 3 times	Dog stays off treat on coffee table while trainer is out of sight for 1 minute	Dog stays off treat that trainer drops. Cue is not given until AFTER the treat starts to drop.	Dog does Zen in a situation that's difficult for her
FOCUS	Dog looks at treat on ground in front of her	Dog looks at 6" jump, then goes over it	Dog looks at something great in front of her, then makes eye contact	Dog looks at one of 2 things on floor, then goes to the correct one	Dog looks at something very frightening or exciting for her while staying In The Game
LAZY LEASH	Trainer teaches another person to pass L3 Step 3 with trainer's dog	Dog maintains LL while walking for 1 minute	Dog maintains LL while walking 1 minute with dogs and people in area	Dog maintains LL while walking 3 minutes with dogs and people in area	Dog maintains LL while going for normal walk



[WELCOME](#)

[Stitch](#)

[Stitch's Blog](#)

[Events](#)

[Scuba](#)

[Training Levels Steps To Success](#)

[email Sue](#)

This site and the writing on it is copyright Sue Ailsby. Feel free to use it personally or for class handouts. To hand it out, you must include a credit to Sue Ailsby and include my email address. And I'd appreciate hearing about how you're using it

RETRIEVE	Dog goes to 3 articles on floor, 1 wood, 1 metal, 1 cloth	Dog puts her mouth over the 3 articles on floor	Dog lifts the 3 articles on floor	Dog retrieves the 3 articles on floor	Dog holds another article differently
TARGET	Dog goes 2' to put paws on vertical surface	Dog goes 5' to put paws on new vertical surface	Dog goes 10' to put paws on new vertical surface	Dog puts paws up on narrow vertical surface	Dog runs 10' away from trainer
CRATE	Dog enters crate, remains calm 5 minutes, trainer goes out of sight	Dog enters crate, remains calm 5 minutes, trainer closes door and goes in and out of sight 3 times	Dog enters crate, remains calm 10 minutes, trainer closes door, goes out of sight, 2 distractions	Dog enters crate, remains calm 15 minutes, door closed, trainer out of sight, 2 distractions	Strange location, dog enters crate, remains calm 5 minutes, door closed, trainer does chores
RELAX	Dog holds Lazy Leash in sight of her own worst distraction	Dog downs in sight of her own worst distraction	Dog settles for 1 minute in sight of her own worst distraction	Dog settles 3 minutes in sight of her own worst distraction	Dog settles in new area that is difficult for her
DISTANCE	Dog goes around standing person 5' away	Dog goes around seated person 5' away, no treats	Dog goes around seated person 15' away	Dog goes around large object 5' away	Dog goes around totally new object 5' away
GO TO MAT	Dog goes 2' to down on common non-mat object	Dog goes 5' to new non-mat, downs for 2 minutes, no treats	Dog goes 15' to personal object, down for 10 minutes, seated trainer	Dog goes 10' to mat, downs for 20 minutes while trainer does chores	Dog goes to mat when doorbell rings, stays while trainer entertains

[Back to Introduction](#)

[LEVEL 1](#)

			chats with someone		briefly	LEVEL 2
HANDLING	Dog eliminates on lead	Dog eliminates on lead away from home	Dog eliminates on lead within 30 seconds	Dog eliminates on lead away from home within 30 seconds	Dog eliminates on lead on new surface within 30 seconds	LEVEL 3
COMMUNICA-TION	Dog makes eye contact, targets trainer's hands left, right	Dog paw-targets trainer's feet left, right	Dog goes to objects on floor left, right	Dog jumps left, right	Dog spins left, right	LEVEL 4
HOMEWORK	Describe the four worst behaviours or problems of your own dog and write out a plan for solving each					

