

# Come. Sit. Stay.

10 steps to training the Seeing Eye® dog way

## Why train your dog The Seeing Eye way?



As the oldest guide dog school in the world, The Seeing Eye has been a pioneer in the guide dog movement. The Seeing Eye® dogs trained at our facility in Morristown, New Jersey, have an incredibly important task ahead of them: to create living partnerships with men and women who are blind and seeking increased mobility and independence.

We are the experts in training guide dogs that are among the best in the world. Our training instructors are seasoned professionals who must first complete a 3-year apprenticeship. The fundamentals of our training rest on the time-tested techniques first implemented by our founders.

For more than 75 years, our puppy raisers have used these simple tips to successfully raise Seeing Eye puppies to have good manners and obedience. We have adjusted them slightly to suit the pet owner. The keys to success remain the same as all training: reward and repetition. If you practice these steps with your dog and maintain patience and consistency, you will see the results in your dog's behavior.

Good luck!



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**1 Sit:** “Sit” is the first command a puppy should learn. It’s best to practice this at feeding time. Place your left hand on the puppy’s head. As you say the puppy’s name, followed by “sit”, gently push on the puppy’s chest with your right hand while running your left hand down the puppy’s back, tucking the puppy’s hindquarters into the sit position. As soon as the puppy sits, praise then place the food bowl on the floor. Your puppy will quickly learn that sitting is a good behavior that is rewarded.



**2 Stay:** Ask the puppy to sit, then place your hand in front of the puppy’s nose (as if you are motioning the puppy to stop) and say “stay”. Take one small step away from the puppy, then return and praise the puppy. Gradually increase the distance you move away from the puppy. To end the command, you can either return to the puppy and praise or ask the puppy to come and then praise.



**3 Come:** Puppies naturally want to come to their masters so it’s a good time to teach the word “come”. Call your puppy by name, using an enthusiastic voice and playful gestures, followed by the word “come”. Reinforce the command with lots of praise. Never call a puppy to come to you if you plan to do something he won’t like, such as giving him a bath.



**4 Down:** When teaching “down”, remember that pushing creates resistance so pulling is the key to getting a dog to lie down. Ask the puppy to sit, then gently pull down on the collar and give the command “down”. You may have to gently pull out the dog’s front legs to help the process along.

**5 Go to your place:** There may be occasions when it is more convenient or safer to have your puppy out from under your feet. Giving your puppy a special place can help. Pick a spot in the house, take your puppy there, then give the command “go to your place” followed by the down command. Follow with praise. Continue training by placing the puppy close to the spot, then giving the command. Gradually move farther away from the designated place until the puppy understands where his spot is. Eventually you will be able to give the command from anywhere in the house and the puppy will go there.



**6 Wait:** It's dangerous for your puppy to race through doorways ahead of you, especially if the door leads outside. Teach "wait" or "stay back" by asking him to sit and stay. Then, open the door just a crack. When the puppy gets up, make him sit again. Continue this until the puppy learns to let you open the door all the way. Then, go out and come right back in and praise the puppy.



**7 Nipping:** To correct nipping, *gently* pull or push the puppy away from the object it is biting and verbally scold while making eye contact. Release the puppy and if it starts biting again, repeat the correction. Praise the puppy when it stops.



**8 Barking:** Barking is a natural behavior that can get annoying if allowed to continue for too long. Discourage barking with a quick tug on the collar or a verbal correction by saying "quiet". After correcting, give the puppy something to do such as sit or down. If the dog continues barking, try a series of obedience commands to shift his attention to you. Consistency is key, every bark or whine must be corrected or you will give your puppy mixed signals.



**9 Jumping:** Early intervention can help control jumping and pulling. Persistence and consistency are the rule: you can't let the puppy jump one day and not the next. Put your hand on his chest and gently push him so his front feet go back onto the ground, saying "off" and giving him the sit command followed by praise.

**10 Pulling:** When your dog is pulling too hard, break the dog's momentum by stopping and asking him to sit. You can do this every step if necessary, until the dog adjusts to the pace you want to walk.

**We hope you find these tips helpful!  
At The Seeing Eye, we're PAW-sitive you can  
make a difference for your puppy's behavior.**

# Training Journal



## PROBLEMS TO CORRECT:

- Jumping
- Pulling
- Barking
- Nipping
- Waiting
- Response to Call

## EVALUATION CHECKLISTS:

### Obedience

*Check off the commands as your puppy masters them.*

- Sit
- Stay
- Come
- Down
- Go to your place
- Wait
- Quiet

### Self-Evaluation

*Are you consistent with your training all the time?*

- Yes
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not Really
- No

*Are you gentle but firm with your commands?*

- Yes
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not Really
- No

*Do you provide adequate rewards and praise for your dog?*

- Yes
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not Really
- No

*Are you pleased with the outcome of this training?*

- Yes
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not Really
- No

### Notes

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