

## **Come to Side**

### **Part 2**

Now that you have been practicing **come to side** for a week now you will see some improvement in the dogs behavior of “coming” to the **side** position instead of front (facing you). The most important aspect of this new position will improve by you changing your feeding the dog from the facing them position, to the **side** position.

What we did last week was to get the dog to snap their head around when you called “come”. This word must become the most wonderful word in their vocabulary at this time. When you train, use the best, high octane treats you can find. I will use roast beef, cooked chicken or smelly cheese. Test these items to find out which one your teammate likes the best. If none of these works, there is always liver, beef lung or string cheese. Experiment. If your dog likes anything as a treat like mine does, make up a variety pack of many different flavors for a special treat.

Up to now most of us have been using the treat in the hand as a lure and clicking and treating (c/t) as they come to the hand. Now we want to fade the lure, and let them come to the hand assume the **side** position on their own for a c/t. And the treat comes from the other hand or from a bowl on the counter. Now you are going back to the exercises of sit-stay the dog and take just a few steps ahead of the dog, calling them to “come” and when they do **side** correctly c/t. A hallway is a very good place to do this. Hug the wall giving them only a body width and call the dog to that side of the body, c/t. Set it up so the dog is successful. If you have done the foundation work from last week this should move along quickly. If you are not being successful back up to an easier task and let them be correct. Make sure you are getting a precise **side** position. If you are unsure let me or another person watch you.

When they are successful at that get them coming from behind you at the positions of 3 to 9 o’clock as we did in last week’s exercises.

Please remember that this week’s lesson has been about the dog targeting your hand and not the treat and getting the position of **side**, precisely! Do not hurry this lesson! It is something that you and the dog will need their whole career both as an agility dog and as a pet that will always come when called.

Next week we will add a jump to this exercise.