

## **Come to Side Part 3**

By now your dog should clearly understand and respond to the command “come” on the first time given. There should be little or no hesitation to following this direction quickly and for the most time accurately 85% of the time (sitting in **side** position). In fact, when you give this command their head should snap towards you and their pupils’ dilate and some of them even drool in anticipation of a tasty treat.

Now, we add a jump to this exercise. This is done with the jump set 4 inches lower than the normal jump height to start. You sit the dog from 5 to 8 feet behind the jump and go about ten feet beyond the jump facing the same way as the dog- forward. Give them their jump command and before they leave the ground use your come command. I put the two words together so they sound like one word, “jump-come”. Click and treat. Be sure not to drop your shoulder too much as that will cause them to drop the bar. Do not c/t unless they come and stand in side position, without knocking the bar. Repeat getting the dog to come to the other **side**.

When they have done this accurately ten times in a row, position the jump at 5 and then at 7 o’clock. If your dog is bored with exercises that are repeated, make sure you stop working this exercise and play, do other activities, and progressively use more powerful treats as the lessons go on to keep them motivated. I find we are much more successful if I do two/three small lessons a day rather than one long one. And always leave each lesson on a good note.

Once they have done this correctly at 5 and 7 o’clock, position yourself at 4 and then at 8 o’clock and do as above. Remember, most dogs do not generalize from one position on the clock to the next easily. But they will find this quicker to if you have laid the foundation from part 1 and 2. And they truly understand what “**side**” position really means.

Now do the positions of 3 and 9 o’clock, again do it until they get it accurately ten times in a row.

Now teach the dog the 10 to 2 o’clock positions. Most of the time you will need these positions for lead-outs both at the start line and at the table. Remember, lead-outs are demotivating to slow or dogs that need to be connected to you.

Next week we will make this exercise a little more difficult.