

'Stay,' 'Come' and "Heel' Around Distractions

This is the part where you take the foundation you've built so that before you attempted life's more difficult distractions you eased your dog into understanding:

- You are a loving teacher/authority figure and not a roommate.
- What 'Stay,' 'Come' and "Heel' actually mean 'No Matter What'. (Not tricks, they are jobs.)

What follows is an incremental (distance) introduction around common neighborhood distractions. Rather than do them in the order I've listed, put the distractions (as opposed to the distance from the distractions) in an order from what you think your dog will be less triggered by to most triggered by.

As with your classroom (in and around your home) exercises, aim for three days in a row of success before changing to a higher level distraction or shorter distance to a distraction.

Where To Train

Anywhere you can predictably find rather than unexpectedly stumble upon the listed distractions and put some distance between yourselves. In most areas a public park will suffice.

Tip 1: For the 'Stay' parts you can bring along a 'mat' to help kickstart your dog's comprehension and later not use it at all.

Tip 2: If you're making little or no progress, the most common reason is when a dog owner allows their dog to have unsupervised access to windows and yards when they're not formally in a position to address prey and/or territory reactivity. Typically, the window ends up doing more 'training' than the dog owner can counter.

