



Middle

Your dog will follow a hand cue and eventually a verbal cue to stand between your legs, facing the same direction that you are.

- Start with food in two hands and your legs wide apart.
- Lure your dog around one leg, all the way to the back. Once the dog is all the way behind you, start to lure them through your legs with the other hand. Once the dog is in the middle, feed, feed, feed. Then say "Get it!" and toss a treat ahead to reset and play again.
- Once the dog seems to know where to go, have no food in the first hand...just act as if you do and use a hand cue to show the dog where to go. You will still feed when the dog comes to Middle, and you can still reset with a tossed treat.
- Once your dog is consistently following your cuing hand without food in it and eagerly presenting themselves in middle position, you can add a verbal cue. (possibly "Middle") Only name the behavior when you are happy with the final position.
- Middle gives your dog a safe place to go when out and about and feeling overwhelmed. He will find being close to you comforting. Also good for the happy greeters and excited types, if they are in middle, they can't be bouncy and busy elsewhere.