



Middle on the Move

- Your dog will follow a hand cue and eventually a verbal cue to stand between your legs.
- Lure your dog with one hand behind you, drop the second hand between your legs for your dog to follow into middle position, feed in position several times and toss a treat ahead to reset and play again.
- Fade out the treat in the luring hand and turn it into a hand cue (possibly a flick of the wrist or a pointed finger) cueing the dog to go around your leg on the cued side into middle position.
- 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.
- Once your dog is comfortable hanging out between your legs, you can add subtle shifts forwards and backwards and reward them for shifting with you as you move. Gradually make the subtle movements whole steps. Try shifts left and right. Don't get too anxious to try these levels until your foundation behavior is solid.
- 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.