

# ELEMENT DOG TRAINING

## Down

- Definition
  - Canine's hind end and elbows are on the floor
- Purpose
  - Basic trick that can be used to teach self-control
- Process
  - Position yourself in front of the dog and have the dog sit. Reward the Sit
  - Start with a lure in front of the dog's nose
  - Use the lure to move the dog's nose straight to the floor and then slightly towards you
    - The lure will trace a backwards "L"
  - When their elbow's hit the floor **mark and reward**
  - Fade the lure by rewarding from the opposite hand or a nearby food container to teach the dog the hand signal for down.
  - Once the dog is reliably performing a down for the hand signal add in the verbal command "Down" before presenting the hand signal.
- [YouTube video of Down](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiZFM_q1bNw)
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- Common mistakes when teaching down:
  - Not moving straight down. Moving away from the dog can cause them to lean and be more likely to break the sit and walk forward.
  - Working on this while the dog's energy level is still very high. Laying down can be difficult because it requires a lack of motion

