



AMPS

Shaping Whoa and Pivots

Shaping WHOA

Equip yourself with a circular, preferably white tupperware lid large enough that your puppy can comfortably stand with both front feet on it but not much bigger.

Place the lid on the ground and when your puppy investigates it, give your TRM, then pick it back up. Repeat until the pup excitedly investigates the lid every time you set it down.

For the next step, your reward criterion is when the puppy touches the lid with one or both of his front feet. Very quickly you should be able to induce the puppy to touch the lid with both his front feet, similar to how you rewarded the pup when he brought all 4 feet up onto his KENNEL platform.

When the puppy will quickly place both front feet on the lid every time you set it down, you're ready for the next step. Lure your puppy into a SIT, and keeping the bait in front of his nose, place the lid a few inches ahead of him as you move your luring hand toward the lid. Do not lower the bait in such a way as might convince him you are luring him to a DOWN. When he stands and, following the bait, places his front two feet on the lid, name it "Joe, whoa!" and release the bait. Practice until you can easily lure the pup into a WHOA with his front two feet on the lid.

Now, command the pup into a SIT without a lure and place the lid in front of him as you say, "Joe, whoa!" Give your TRM the instant he is standing with both front feet on the lid.

If you find that your puppy inches forward so that both front feet are on the lid but he returns to the SIT position, you can use a leash looped under his belly and give a bit of upward tension to keep his rear end off the ground as he moves forward. You should not be lifting his rear end off the ground, rather, the leash is there to prevent the rear end from returning to SIT. Work to fade out this upward tension as your pup begins to understand that WHOA means to stand up.

Pivoting on the Forehand

Start with the pup sitting next to you in either the HEEL or PLACE (right-side heel) position. Hold a piece of bait in front of his nose in the hand closest to the puppy and with your other hand set the tupperware lid in front of him and say, "Joe, whoa!" luring him into the WHOA with his front two feet on the lid. From here, you can rotate your hand to the left or right, causing him to turn his head. When his head has turned far enough that he has to move his back feet, pivoting off his front, give your TRM. Start by marking and rewarding 1 step of the back feet, two steps, etc. until he understands that when the bait moves he should start pivoting.

At this point, you can start orbiting the tupperware lid with him as he pivots, helping him keep a consistent picture of HEEL or PLACE. Keep practicing until he has a smooth, ambidextrous PIVOT ON THE FOREHAND which will serve the two of you very well when we introduce turns into the HEEL pattern in later weeks.