



LESSON: Start, Stop, and Turns

We must communicate with our pups in order for them to walk with us and not pull. Imagine you are guiding someone blind-folded. You would communicate with them when to start walking, stop, cross the street, change directions, etc. This is how you will guide your dog during walks, using verbal cues.

Start Cue or "Let's Go": Put dog in heel position. Say "Let's Go" and mark and reward when dog moves forward with you. Repeat 5X.

Stop Cue: While walking with a loose leash, say, "stop" then take 1-2 steps more and freeze. When dog freezes, mark and reward. Repeat 8X.

Left Turn Cue "left turn" 1-2 paces before turn. Mark and reward in the middle of the turn with the hand nearest dog at heel position.

Right Turn Cue "right turn" 1-2 paces before turn. Mark and reward in the middle of the turn with the hand nearest dog at heel position.

About Turns (180 degrees): Cue turn 1-2 paces before turn. Mark and reward in the middle of the turn with the hand nearest dog at heel position.

Outside Turns- your body is closest to the landmark- dog on outside.

Inside Turns- Your dog is closest to the landmark and you are in the outside position. Inside turns are more difficult. **Pro tip:** reward your dog slightly behind your leg so the dog does not get in front of you and cut you off. Cuing early is key!

Practice Always begin in a low distraction environment (indoors) and then progress to higher distraction environments (outdoors).

