

Evaluation Item: Mealtimes ▾

Evaluator Level: Green ▾

Introducing “Out”

When at some point a dog decides to “guard” something like a food bowl, a toy, or a random stick on the ground, being able to ask the dog to get away from this object can be a great way to start to change that conversation without needing to get directly involved. “Out” tells your dog that wherever they are right now is not the best place to be, and they should move elsewhere.

1. Somewhere in or around you, find a doorway, a small room, or some other clearly defined space.
2. Say “out,” point in the direction you want the dog to go.
3. Toss a reward out of the space.
4. When the dog gets out of the space, let them get the reward you tossed before giving them another reward!
5. This activity should be fun, not scary. Make sure to use a cheerful tone. Do not accidentally turn this cue into a punishment!

Adopter Highlight

Some adopters may be concerned about the dog getting under their feet while they are cooking in the kitchen, or in similar daily situations around the house. When “place” isn’t an option, “out” works great to just get the dog out of our space. If this dog is excited to see people when they first get home, “out” can be a great way to just slow the excitement down a bit and prevent any tripping hazards. This cue can also be used for dogs who are uncomfortable around people or other dogs. “Out” directs a dog’s attention away from their trigger and encourages them to move away. Try generalizing this cue outside on walks!

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