

## PERCH WORK

For general body awareness as well as independent rear paw awareness. The end result can also be that your dog sits in front and is able to turn and sit at your side on both right and left side.

Your perch should be 25cm x 25 cm roughly for large dogs and about 15cm x 15 cm for smaller dogs.

**First lesson:** Put the perch on the ground with dog watching. CT (click and treat) for any movement towards the perch. You can do this a couple of times but then wait for further advancement towards the perch. This can be:

- touching with nose
- touching with foot etc.

CT this action a couple of times.

Then wait again for further advancement towards the goal of dog putting both feet on the perch. CT with dog's feet on the perch and then release off the perch.

Make plenty of value for dog with front feet on perch. This means waiting for the dog to go to the perch himself and CT. Try not to help the dog in any way. You should be still during this lesson.



**Second lesson:** Go back and repeat couple of the first lesson steps to remind the dog what the object is.

Now add your movement. Move around the cone slightly so dog starts using his backend while still keeping his front paws on the perch. Use lots of CT as dog moves his back legs. Remember to move both directions.

**Lesson Three:** If the dog is moving around the cone with his back legs, add a

PVC jump bar, placed on the ground, so the dog has to lift his back legs over the bar as you move around the perch. This is not a 'jump' it is to be stepped over carefully. Remember to CT as he steps over the bar.

**Lesson Four:** Just using the perch start standing with dog by your side. CT. Move a quarter around. When your dog moves to be beside you then CT. Move another quarter CT. Remember to have the dog beside you on both sides.

**Lesson Five:** Fade the perch and use your shoulders to get dog to move his back legs around to be beside you. Do this on both sides. Add a sit command. Using this method also means the dog is sitting straight on your side.

*Make sure you do not advance to the next step until your dog really 'knows' the previous step. Also do not put a word command to the action until lesson 5 and it can then be 'close' or 'side' different commands for different sides*

This is a lot to take in and understand. If you are in any doubt or have questions please email or see me at training. Rosie Milton