



# SIDE

## Level 2

**Goal:** The dog will get in position, on your right side when hearing the word “Side”. When hearing the word “side” the dog will go to your right and shift their hips around until perfectly aligned with you, their head facing forward.

**Material:** Platform, clicker and treats

TRAINING PLAN		
1.	<b>Establish “Paws on platform”</b>	Be ready with your clicker in hand and place the platform on the floor. At this point, since the dog already learned “Heel”, they should immediately place their 4 paws on the platform. If not, click and treat for any movement towards the platform until the dog reliably places all four paws on the platform. Once all paws are on the platform, treat on the platform 2-3 times, then click and treat away from the platform, setting the dog up for repeating the behavior. Repeat this step until the dog immediately goes back to the platform after eating the treat away from it.
2.	<b>Increasing criteria</b>	Once the dog consistently places their paws on the platform and stays there, move closer and closer to the platform until you can stand next to the platform (with the platform along your right side). This should cause the dog to place themselves in a perfect “Side” position right next to you, head facing forward. Click and treat the dog for getting into position. Wait 2-4 seconds, then click and treat again for holding the position, then click and treat the dog away from the platform to set them up to repeating the behavior. Repeat this step until the dog automatically gets into a “Side” position next to you.
3.	<b>Adding the cue</b>	Say the word “Side” as the dog gets in position by your side. You’ll have to repeat this 50-100 times for the dog to make the connection between the word “Side” and the position.
4.	<b>Fading out the platform</b>	To eliminate the platform, you can try removing it completely during a training session, after the dog has gotten in the position 5-6 times in a row. You might need to gradually reduce the platform and look for ways to make it smaller and/or thinner (using different platforms and/or transition to a sheet of paper that you can gradually make disappear).
5.	<b>Building distance</b>	Start taking steps away from the dog. The goal is for you to be able to face the dog, several steps away, say the word “Side” and have the dog move on your left into a “Side” position.
6.	<b>Building distractions</b>	Repeat the steps above by gradually increasing the level of distractions. Ask the dog to “Side” while there’s a toy or ball or even treats on the floor, etc. Ask the dog to “Side” while there are other people standing several feet away, then closer. Ask the dog to “Side” while there is another dog nearby. Say another word or make another sound. Work very gradually and be creative with this step.



7.	<b>Generalization</b>	Change your location. Work with your dog in a different room, in the yard, in a store, at the mall, etc. Ask other handlers to work with the dog. Keep the level of distractions low at first, then gradually build it up until the dog is responsive in most situations when out in public.
8.	<b>Fluency</b>	Gradually build up the level of difficulty until you can successfully get your dog to respond to the cue “Side” in different places and with different levels of distractions. Use the cue in everyday life situation anytime you need to get the dog in position by your side, on the right.

CONGRATULATIONS! If you’ve come this far, you have taught the dog a very elegant way to move to your right side.