

Phase 2: dog walk

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The videos on this page illustrate a plan for assembling the foundation pieces perfected in phase 1 into fast, independent dogwalk performance with a stopped 2o2o position.

A great deal of the training has already been done. In this phase we will concentrate on working up to full size equipment with minimal training aides so you can then work on generalizing the performance in phase 3.

Phase 2-1DW: Making the Position Meaningful

The first step in Phase 2 is to make the 2o2o position itself meaningful to your dog. There is no inherent reason they would stop there or work hard to get there unless it is meaningful.

When your dog is offering that position as part of games that you play, then you can assemble it with the confidence of running really fast on a board and the physical skill of running really fast and being able to stop.

Phase 2-2DW: Getting There

This video is a checkpoint to see where my foundation pieces are at. This tells me whether my dog would benefit from back-chaining, lowering the dogwalk, using a less distracting reward, stride regulators or even whether I need to spend more time on foundation pieces before assembling them.

From this quick checkpoint, I can see that Echo has great speed on the up and flat, but struggles a bit with driving down the ramp into the 2o2o- I'm aiming for a 1.8sec 2o2o dogwalk, so I have some work to do. I need to work on sending her ahead to the 2o2o position and reward her for not reorienting to find me and I need to work on her releasing on chuck-it :)

This video shows the techniques and training aides that you are most likely to need, or may need, to translate the foundation pieces into a lovely, fast dogwalk culminating in a 2o2o.

In the final phase of training, we help our dogs generalize their performance to lots of different environments, fade any remaining training aides, add distractions similar to the competition environment and put the dogwalk in sequence.

Don't forget there are other aspects to training the dogwalk beyond the 2o2o behavior, such as working approach angles and obstacle discrimination.