



Coach Carly Academy

Reward Placement Guide & Owner Checklist

Where you deliver the reward influences your dog's next movement. Thoughtful reward placement helps build clear, reliable behaviours and reduces confusion.

Golden Rules

- Mark the correct behaviour before delivering the reward
- Deliver the reward where you want the next repetition to begin
- Use calm, accurate movements
- Match reward value to the difficulty of the task

Common Reward Placements

- At your leg – encourages position for loose lead walking
- Between the front paws – encourages a down
- On a mat – reinforces settling
- Hand target – builds engagement and movement
- Tossed away – resets for another repetition

Avoid

- Luring after the behaviour is complete
- Rewarding in the wrong position
- Throwing food randomly
- Reaching over your dog's head unnecessarily

Owner Checklist

- Plan reward placement before each repetition
- Keep sessions short (3–5 minutes)
- Increase distractions gradually

- End on a successful repetition
- Use praise alongside food or toys when appropriate

Signs It's Working

- Your dog offers the behaviour more quickly
- Positions become more accurate
- Your dog stays engaged
- Fewer repeated cues are needed

Coach Carly Tip: Reward placement is part of your teaching. Every treat should help your dog understand exactly where and how you would like them to perform the behaviour next time.