



Avon Dog Services  
Training & Behavioural Specialist  
.co.uk

## Life skills 2 – For dogs that have covered Life skills 1

### Core Values

**Walk lead-free beside handler** – This skill helps to keep your dog under close control, without the need for putting the lead on. A progression from loose lead walking, this technique helps to focus the dog.

**Control around moving objects** – This is a great way to teach impulse control to dogs. We look at how to control and redirect chase drive behaviours.

**Distance Control (advanced)** – We ask a little more of the dog at distance than in Life Skills 1, by adding in extra commands to keep the dog engaged, even at a distance.

**Settle the dog from distance** – Sending the dog to a place of rest is a great way to let them relax even when they're not next to you. Great for during family meal times or when you have company.

**Recall past distractions** – This skill teaches a reliable recall, not just *from* distractions, but *past* distractions. Set-ups are used to really test the dogs focus on the handler during recall, regardless of the distractions around them

**Leaving unwanted items, off lead** – This skill is essential when your dog may not be next to you, leaving you to rely on your 'leave' command. You'll practice the command at close range and build up to your dog being further away from you. This skill can be used in many situations in their adult life, from within the home to the outside environment.

**Emergency stop** - An invaluable life skill that you will hopefully never need to use but is an essential skill to have. Being able to stop your dog in an instant could save their life.

**Choice training** - Helping your dog make the right choice from a series of options, for life skills 2, there are more distractions added, as well as more difficult choices.

**The Rule of 3** – The rule of 3 runs throughout all of our exercises. It gives an easy way to remember exercise schedules, rates of reinforcement and reward variety.

## *Added Extras*

**Fizz up, Calm down** – This skill helps you raise and calm your dogs excitement levels whenever you need. Gaining dogs interest and raising drive for play times is great, but being able to calm the dog down afterwards is crucial.

**Scent work (advanced)** – Playing detective! This is a fun exercise for you and your dog, loosely build on customs search dogs. It's is mentally stimulating, perfect if you can never seem to 'tire them out'. A great way to help keep your dog calm and relaxed.

**Pick a trick** - Pick a trick to teach your dog! This fits well with the clicker training available in previous courses, however you don't need to have selected this to complete this section. We'll look at what tricks are suitable for your dog and start to put in the foundations of the plan for you to practice at home.

**Shaping Behaviours** – Shaping behaviours is a fun way of getting the dog to perform an action, without showing the dog what to do, simply be reinforcing any action similar to that of the desired result. Kind of like playing a game of hot or cold as kids.

**Targeting** – Using a hand or target stick to help build focus, which can then be built into exercises for use around the house, such as closing doors, cupboards etc.

**Agility** – An introduction into agility, held by Matt and Tamara, our agility instructors.