

So, how can you adopt this procedure? Start by training your dog **Roving Stand Alones** i.e. Sit the dog, walk out, throw the mark, release the dog, wait for the retrieve, accept delivery, and repeat. You will quickly realize that Roving Stand Alones can be time consuming and require a lot of walking (not a bad thing unless you are training multiple dogs :o )

When the dog is proficient at staying until released for a 75 yard mark, you can begin to train for One-Place Stand Alones. **It is important** that your dog is steady; otherwise he may develop some bad habits while you are throwing stand alone marks.

### **The Line is a “Happy Place”:**

1. Use the bottom half of a plastic crate to identify where you want the dog to sit. Place a white bucket beside the crate (left front corner). Use a **short lead to guide the dog into the crate** and have him heel beside you on your left. (You may have to place your left foot in the crate as well)
2. **Introduce the command** that you will be using to “Send Back”. e.g. “Kennel”, “Place”, “Mat”, etc.
3. Use a “Mark” command to prepare the dog, and **throw a bumper** in front of you. Release the dog with his name, and insist that the dog return to the crate before you receive the bumper by using your “send back” command.
4. **Praise** the dog after he has returned to the crate, and then **repeat** steps (2) and 3 until the dog willingly returns and heels in the crate.
5. Use patience, attrition, and praise - not the e-collar. We are trying to teach the dog that the crate (line) is a **“Happy Place”** where good things happen.

**Identify the Line:**

1. Continue using the crate to identify where you want the dog to sit. Walk in front of the dog, turn and face the dog, and **summon** him to you verbally.
2. **Receive the dog with enthusiasm**, then have him turn to face the crate and sit.
3. Line him up for the crate, and give him your **“Send Back”** command. Be prepared to assist the dog back to the crate. Expect the dog to avoid the crate by sitting beside it, behind it, jumping in and out, etc. (I have found that dropping a piece of kibble in the crate is helpful)
4. As soon as the dog gets into the crate, give a **“Sit”** command to anchor there. Use patience, attrition, and praise - not the e-collar.
5. Back up and **repeat** until you can send back the dog successfully at least 20 feet. This may take more than one session.

**Throw a Stand Alone Mark:**

1. Stand approx 5 yards in front of the crate and send the dog to the crate with your **“Send Back”** command.
2. When the dog is sitting in the crate and facing you, use your **“traffic cop”** hand and give a **“Sit”** or **“Stay”** command to make it clear that the dog is to stay in the crate. A whistle may be used as well.
3. DO NOT drop your **“traffic cop”** hand. Throw an **angle back bumper**. You may have to repeat the **“Sit”** command while throwing the mark.
4. Wait 3 seconds and **release** the dog with his name.
5. Have the dog deliver the mark facing the line. **Take the mark**, ensure the dog is focused on the line (remember that white bucket?), and send back the dog with your **“send back”** command.

6. **Move back** 5 to 10 yards and repeat starting from step 2 or 3.
7. With success, **Repeat** while increasing the distance. Over time, you should be able to progress to 100+ yard marks.
8. Suggest that you don't exceed **10 retrieves per session**.

### Where to Now?:

1. **Transition the line platform** from a crate, to raised platform, to a mat, to no platform at all. Transition the line marker from a white pail, to post with a marker (eg an inverted white milk jug, a hat, etc.), to a bush, to no line marker.
2. Use a One-Place Stand Alone with **marking drills** such as the "X" marking drill, "Y" marking drill, Walk Away drill, Walking Singles, Creamsicle drill, ABCD marking, Slot marks, etc. (Descriptions for these drills can be found in books/videos by Carol F. Cassity, Bill Hillman, Mike Lardy, Mitch White, and/or Dennis Voigt)
3. Can also be used for any mark thrown in the presence of **flare, suction, and/or drift**.
4. Consider using dead **birds**, shackled birds, or even a live flyer.
5. By sending the dog to the crate from your **left AND right** sides, your dog will become more comfortable being sent from both sides.
6. When sending your dog back to the line, do not let him avoid factors. Use attrition.

### Thanks To:

I included this approach in my training after reviewing articles/ videos by Dennis Voigt and Bill Hillman