

A few terms that we will use to begin with:

## Your Moves

Kick	Sound obvious – it should always be straight forward. Leaving you directly ahead, no cheat kicks out the back door. Look <u>where</u> you will kick, before you kick. This is using the dogs' innate skills of reading the sheep. We want them to find you reliable and trustworthy.
Dribbling	This is messing with the ball but not letting it escape. Slowly moving it around, between your feet, small taps
A Belter	This is an escaping single sheep. Often when sheep are “well dogged” they have learned to stick together so well that the young dog gets no experience reading the dominant ewe that is eyeing an escape route. The job becomes a little too easy. We need these single escapees to turn on the dog's eye and will often set it up to keep the dog vigilant. Even if you need to take a step or two back to give the ball the strongest kick you can, the dog should see that ball head for the hills at the faster rate it can.
Clock points	I will sometimes need you to turn and face different directions – I will use point around a clock. If you are facing 12, and turn to face 90° to the right, you will be facing 3.
Swop	This is you changing your focus from one ball/toy to another. The dog will need this information to know where to focus themselves. Be conscious of this as a cue to the dog. Kicking a ball you are not looking at will cause conflict.
Reward	Generally being able to stop the escape ball is a reward, needing to chase a ball down is an affront to their pride. There may be times when you need to set up a belter to make a point to the dog that they are in the wrong spot. As they respond and move to the right spot it will be rewarded.
Goal	The reward kick should be within the “goal posts”, of about a dog's length either side of the dog. We do not need kick it directly to their face. This is a harder ball to stop or block, but when it is slightly to one side the dog will be more successful in grabbing, and have made a small move to do that.

## Dog moves:

You will be drawing out all these behaviours, note them when they happen.

Flanking	This is the 90° turn the dogs makes. If the dog is facing nose in to you, then a flank to their right, will put them on the outer circle going anti-clockwise. Once the dog is moving around on this circle, they are not flanking. The “flank” is the turn.
Outrun	This is the widening circuit the dog will take to get behind the sheep, or ball
Stop	The dog can take up any position, stand, half stand (lower head) or full working down, provided they are still engaged and ready for action. If you do other activities with the dog that requires a down to be a down, then do not use that word here and the

position is not relevant but the stop, and hold, be waiting for action, is. You may watch videos where the dog is told to “down”, but then rewarded for not going down but asked to move on – this is the nature, we need the dog to stop, and down is often used for this. (I personally think just ask them to stop!)

Walk in/on      Encouragement to take a single step forwards.

There will be some more advanced moves we include later on.

## Cues

You can select any cues suitable, we do not add these until the behaviour is predictable, in the correct form and reliable.

Flank/turn, left or right

In sheep world this is the Come Bye (turn left) Away to Me (turn right). Often people see the circuit as the Bye & Away, but remember it is the turn that begins the circuit that is the critical action. We do not need the dog to process more information than is necessary. Once they are “on the circuit” in the correct direction you can ask them to speed up or slow down. The circuit always ends with a turn in to face the sheep and a stop.

You can use “circle” “round”, “out”, “swing”. Provided the pair you choose sound phonetically quite different.

“Stop”      “wait”, stand there, stop will all do fine.

“Walk on”      Step forward, get up and put pressure on the sheep.

Take time      this is the classic “field term” for slow down you bugger.

That’ll do      We are going back to the house for tea.