

→ CLICKER TRAINING

Makes learning FUN for the animal and the trainer too!

– By Veronica Selco –

CLICKER TRAINING uses positive reinforcement paired with a “click” to teach your dog a new behavior. The “click” is a distinct marker that is non-verbal, consistent and clear. By eliminating the need for your dog to have to interpret verbal information which can also communicate your frustration, disapproval or stress, your dog can quickly earn a reward when she offers the behavior you want.

You can use clicker training for teaching your dog tricks, life skills, service dog tasks or whatever behavior you want by precisely marking the desired behavior with a “click” then quickly offering a valuable reward. A reward can be a game of tug, playing with a ball or preferably a quick food reward.

A “click” is neutral and is proven to contribute to faster and more reliable learning compared to using a verbal marker such as “yes” or “good”.

Make learning fun for your dog with a high rate of reinforcement. A general guideline for reinforcing your dog’s behavior is 10 to 15 times per minute.

You can also use clicker training with people and various other pets and aquarium and zoo animals too!



Courtesy of Go Dog Photo

Why Positive Reinforcement?

When you clicker train your dog you are setting the stage for a lifelong relationship of trust, fun learning and clear communication of the behavior you want from your dog. Your dog will learn that when she’s right she gets a “click” and no click means she has another opportunity to try again.

There is no need for force or punishment and there is no need to tell your dog that she is wrong. Using punishment will interfere and slow down your dog’s learning, discourage her from trying again and provide inconsistent results.

If you would like a relationship of cooperation where your dog learns quickly and is eager to learn consider clicker training!

For more information on clicker training go to www.clickertraining.com.



Courtesy of Go Dog Photo

How To Get Started



Courtesy of Go Dog Photo

There are a few skills you can practice on your own before you start to train your dog. You can purchase a clicker at your local pet store. A clicker is a small plastic box with a metal insert that makes a “click” sound when you press it.

- 1 Set up a cup on counter or chair a few feet away from you.
- 2 Have treats cut up in small pea sized pieces. Decide whether you will hold treats in your hand or have them in a pouch around your waist. Treats should be on side or back or in a position where it does not distract dog.
- 3 Stand or sit in neutral position, now find a comfortable way to hold clicker in your hand and find comfortable position for that hand/arm.
- 4 Practice “clicking” and delivering treat to cup until you find a “rhythm” that feels right. Treat hand should remain still until after the click.
- 5 Now again, in neutral and stable position practice this: Click, Pause, Extend treat hand and Deliver Treat to cup.

Now bring out your dog!

Remember to click your dog while behavior is occurring not after.