

HOW TO USE A MARKER AS A TEACHING TOOL

PREPARE FOR THE LESSON, SET A GOAL, GATHER SUPPLIES, PREPARE LOCATION.

1

Before getting your dog, decide what baby step you want to teach, gather your 10 treats, clicker, and decide on how you will set things up to help your learner figure out what you are wanting.

OBSERVE YOUR PUPPY CAREFULLY FOR A SUCCESSFUL GUESS.

2

When we are teaching something new our puppy doesn't have any idea what the "right" answer is, so we want them to guess! If we set up our learning session so that it is likely that guess will be the behavior we want, success will be quick. Observe carefully and err on the side of too early rather than too late.

MARK (CLICK) THE MOMENT YOUR LEARNER MEETS THE CRITERIA YOU HAVE SET.

3

Teach in baby steps, each step has its own goal (criteria) and your job is to observe for the moment your dog meets the criteria you set for that lesson and click it.

DELIVER THE TREAT THE SAME WAY EACH REPETITION.

4

Reward can be delivered to the puppy's mouth, fed from the hand, rolled for them to chase, or dropped right on the floor. Each has a different use in teaching. What's important is that you are consistent within the lesson.

REPEAT UP TO 10 TIMES TOTAL, END WITH AN "ALL DONE"

5

Less is more when it comes to teaching. Keep lessons to a maximum of 10 repetitions or 10 minutes. Use a timer to keep track of time, and count out 10 treats to prevent yourself from running too long.

FAQS

WHAT IS A CLICKER?

1

A clicker is a simple tool of communication. With a very precise sound and timing it can tell our dog exactly what, of all the things happening, they just did that earned the reward.

DO I ALWAYS NEED TO CLICK?

2

A clicker is a teaching tool, you won't need to click once your dog understands the lesson, has learned the skill, and can apply it in the desired location(s). Once you are happy with what you have taught your dog you can move to clicker free maintenance.

WHAT IS CRITERIA?

3

If we don't know what we want our dog to do we can't expect them to figure it out! Criteria is the baby step we are trying to teach in that 10 treat session.

WHAT ARE BABY STEPS?

4

Most behaviors we want our dogs to do are made up of multiple small behaviors. When we teach each of those components separately our dog learns much faster and with less failure and frustration.

WHY TREATS?

5

Treats are easiest for new trainers to use. They are readily accepted by most dogs, dogs need to eat every day anyway, so treats are quite simply the most effective and easy to master reinforcement option for new trainers.