

Intro to Clicker Training

Welcome volunteers! We would like you to get involved in our dogs' training. Clicker training is a positive, fun, and immensely rewarding (for both human and dog!) way to train dogs. The click signifies "Yes! That is great. You deserve a treat". It's like an audible pat on the back.

Benefits:

- Allows for better timing of telling the dog "Yes!"
- Unique sound that they only hear when they did something good and a treat is coming
- Always sounds the same
- Non-emotional sound (think of how many ways you can say "good dog"!)
- Allows the dog to make decisions thus building confidence
- Builds relationships between people and dogs

Things to remember:

- The click happens at the same time as the action, not after
- A treat *always* follows a click. The dog will wait after the click
- Click any action that you like: quiet, not jumping, eye contact
- Ignore behaviors you don't like
- Clicker training is hands-off

Let's get started! Ask your caregivers what they would like you to work on today.

Four on the floor: Click then treat when all four paws are on the ground

Click for quiet: Click then treat when the dog is quiet

Name means look at me: Say your dog's name. Click then treat when they give you eye contact.

Click for sit (and down): Click then treat when the dog sits or lies down

Sit means sit: Ask the dog for a sit while you're sitting in a chair, standing sideways, facing backwards, with your hands covering your eyes, standing on one foot, etc. Click then treat when the dog sits (it may take a little longer for the dog to think about what you're asking! Count to 10 before asking again).

Loose leash walking: Ask your caregiver to block the run mates inside so you can work with your dog outside. Clip the leash and drop it so that it drags. Click then treat when the dog is walking or standing next to you.

Hide and seek: Ask your caregiver to block the run mates inside so you can work with your dog outside. "Hide" somewhere in the run when your dog is not looking. Call your dog's name and as they move toward you say "come" in an excited voice and continue praising while your dog is finding you. Click then treat when the dog finds you.