

Clicker Training Tips

Before you begin any training exercises, here are some important clicker training tips.

Click first, then treat.

Always reward, even if you click accidentally.

Keep your treat hand still until after the click.

Use the clicker to teach new behaviors. Once the behavior is on cue, the clicker can be faded.

Keep sessions short (two to five minutes). Several short sessions will be far more productive than one long session.

End training sessions on a “good paw” with the puppy still wanting to continue training. Don’t wait until he fills up on treats or gets tired.

Set the puppy up to succeed. The more often dogs get it right, the better they learn. If the puppy is not successful, you are asking for too much, too soon. This can quickly get frustrating. Remember that training should be a fun game!

Work on only one new behavior (that is not yet on cue) during each training session.

Train the puppy in a quiet environment that is free of distractions.

Reward every desired response. The puppy will learn faster that way.

Avoid punishment (including verbal reprimands) as it reduces the ability to learn. Think of the opposite of a reward as no reward. Click = treat. No click = try again.