

Capturing & Shaping Games

Level 2: Capture a Paw Lift

Purpose:

The purpose of this exercise is to build on the skills of noticing and capturing small movements, a precursor to shaping. It also teaches the dog to offer a specific behavior repeatedly.

Dog Skills

Offer behavior

Give attention

People Skills

Observation

Clicker mechanics

Reinforcement

Steps

1. With the dog in a standing position, click and treat any movement of a front paw.
2. If the dog is not moving, move a step or two to get the dog active, and click the start of any move of the same paw.
3. Pause now and then to allow the dog to voluntarily lift his paw; click and treat any deliberate paw lifts.
4. When the dog is deliberately lifting his paw, move to a different part of the room and continue to capture paw lifts.

Click Points

- The start of any paw move.
- Any effort toward lifting a paw (wrist bend, weight shift off of paw).
- Repeated paw lifts.

Tag Points

- Click the instant the paw moves.
- Keep your treat hand still until after the click.

Good for building these other behaviors:

Capturing & Shaping Games Levels 3 and 4, wave, "high five," touching objects with paw, identifying objects or people.

At home fun:

Continue to capture cute behaviors outside of training sessions, such as cocked head, crossed paws, sneeze, backup, etc. Use mouth click if you don't have a clicker handy, followed by a treat. Record each click (put a checklist on the refrigerator door) and see if the "random" events become more frequent.