

Week One Homework:

- “Show Me the Money” - experiment with what types of rewards your dog likes. Every dog has different preferences, so try lots of things.
 - Offer your dog two different types of treats and see which one she goes for first. Record your results and do this with many types of treats until you come up with which ones are her absolute favorites (popular favorites: hot dogs, cheese, bacon, peanut butter, sausage, liver, ham, chicken, packaged treats, and cat food).
 - Remember that treats need to be very small - about the size of a pea. It needs to be just large enough that your dog gets the taste of it and wants more, but not large enough that she could fill up on it.
 - Try playing with your dog, petting your dog, and giving her a toy for a few seconds, too. See which one she prefers.
- “Charge the Clicker” - pairing the click sound with the reward of a treat.
 - This only needs to be done once. Afterwards, the dog will know click = reward.
 - The pairing is made by rapidly clicking and treating 10-15 times. Don’t wait for any sort of reaction from the dog; just click and give treats.
 - Pause and wait for the dog to look away.
 - Click, just once. If the dog turns to look for a treat, then the click has been paired with a reward. (This is the only time in clicker training the click is used to elicit a reaction from the dog.) If the dog doesn’t look for a treat, then it hasn’t made the key association yet. Repeat bullet points 3 and 4, then test again.



Name Game

Exercise 1: Check In

Goal

The goal of this step is to capture and reinforce periodic eye contact from the dog. This will be built into eye contact as the correct response to the dog’s name and focusing on the handler in the presence of distractions. This teaches the dog to take responsibility for maintaining contact with you when outdoors or separated. The dog should check in frequently for new cues or when in doubt or stressed.

Steps

1. Observe the dog and click the moment he makes eye contact.
2. Continue with another activity to avoid accidentally reinforcing staring versus checking in.
3. Continue to casually observe the dog. Click and treat when he checks in with eye contact.

Reminders

- Click/treat any eye contact by the dog
- Look away and move on after click and treat
- Don’t click for sitting and staring at you

Practice around the house – whenever your dog checks in with eye contact, click/treat