

Clicker Training

- it's one big tick

Clicker training can help you communicate with your pet. You can clicker train any kind of dog, of any age. Puppies love it. Old dogs learn new tricks. You can clicker-train cats, birds, and other pets as well. Keep notes. You will be surprised at the speed of your progress! Reward YOURSELF for your pet's improvements. Here are some simple tips to get you started.

1. Push and release the clicker, making a metallic click-clack then give your pet something it really likes (keep the treats small and delicious).
2. Click while your pet is DOING the desired behaviour, (not AFTER it is finished). The **timing** of the click is crucial. Don't worry if your pet stops the behaviour when it hears the click. The click ends the behaviour. Give the treat after that - the timing of the treat is not as important as the timing of the click!

3. Things you might LIKE to click include:- sit; come toward you; touch your hand with its nose; raise a paw; go through a door; walk next to you, pee in the right spot etc

4. Click just ONCE (in-out.) If your pet does something really great and you want to express enthusiasm, praise with your voice, or give a handful of treats.

5. KEEP PRACTICE SESSIONS SHORT. Three sessions of five minutes each are better than an hour - your dog will get bored.

6. TRAINING is a SERIES of STEPS.

Click and treat for small movements in the right direction. Don't wait for the "whole picture" or the perfect behaviour, eg. You want your dog to come when called, and it looks or takes a few steps your way : click.

7. LURING. You can coax your pet to do a behaviour with food— no need to push, pull or hold it.

8. RAISING YOUR GOAL. As soon as you have a good response start asking for more, eg. Longer stays, cuter wave, come when around others etc.

9. WORD or HAND SIGNALS. When the dog

begins showing you the behaviour spontaneously introduce a word or hand signal. Click for that behaviour if it happens during or after the word/hand signal. Ignore behaviour that



happens when the signal wasn't given. If your dog does not respond to a signal, it is not "disobeying;" it just hasn't learned the signal completely. Practice some more!

10. TRICKS. Carry a clicker and "catch" cute behaviours like cocking the head, chasing the tail, or holding up one paw. You can click for many different behaviours, whenever you happen to notice them, without confusing your dog.

11. BE HAPPY! If you feel mad, put the clicker away. Don't mix scolding, leash-jerking, and correction training with confidence in the clicker and in you.

12. TIMING is EVERYTHING. If you are not making progress with a particular behaviour, you are probably clicking too late. Accurate timing is important. Get someone else to watch you, and perhaps to click for you a few times.

13. CLICKS have more impact than words because they are aimed specifically at the dog, and will ensure a faster more thorough learning process.

Have fun. Clicker-training will enrich your relationship with your pet.