

Clickers and How They Can Save You A lot Of Time

Let me introduce you to the clicker:

You may have heard about clickers as some advance technique... but in reality it's a great foundation for training your dog to do many tricks in the future.

You can get these at any local pet store and you will absolutely fall in love with one. IF you know how to use one properly. They can be fun and exciting to use and your dog will learn to love that clicker. Why?

He will know: CLICKER = TREAT

Let's cover the basics:

Your goal in the beginning is to use the clicker and allow your dog to associate the clicker with reward.

- 1) Find out what you puppy or dog loves to have as a treat.
- 2) Now get in a quiet place... and go through this routine.

Hold the clicker in one hand and in the other have a treat.

Click & Treat
Click & Treat

Continue this until you can tell- he knows click means treat.

How to test this? Wait until he turns his head then click it. The head turns quickly and he opens his mouth... Well, not literally but you know what I mean.

Once we know that he gets it- teaching him different commands are soooooo easy.

Rules of Engagement before we continue:

NEVER- click the clicker without treating.

NEVER- let the kids play with the clicker and not give him a treat.

NEVER- place the clicker around his ears- remember a dog can hear much better than we can and you don't want to scare him. (Some trainers actually place the clicker in their pocket and click from there.)

NEVER- point your at face. The sound is what you are after- not him recognizing or even seeing the clicker.

NEVER- click more than once... per reward.

Ok, ready for training. This is going to be fun:

SIT

- 1) Show the puppy that you're holding a treat.
- 2) Get it close to his nose and slowly move it back toward his head.
- 3) This will cause his rearend to lower- when he hits the sit position, "click and treat".
- 4) Now the next time- as you move your hand back across his head- give the command "Sit"- then when he sits- Click and Treat.
- 5) Once this is working every time you make the command "sit"- quit the clicker and just treat.
- 6) You are the 'dog whisper'!

You are going to be amazed how easy this is...

Don't give up until it works. It will work unless:

Unless: He is not hungry. If he is full and doesn't want a treat then it could backfire. With my german shepherd this definitely wasn't an issue.

OR: If there is a lot of distractions around you. Remember to try to set him up for success. Plan these training periods. Do three or four a day and not for long. The attention span on a puppy is very short as you'll find out.

Now you can take this to the next level.

Each time make him sit for more time- example 10 seconds, 20 ,30 - then click and treat.