

Clicker Training Rules

- ♣ Only one click is used to mark the desired behavior (in-out)
- ♣ The marker must be given exactly when the behavior happens - almost simultaneously (ex. click when the dog's butt hits the ground for a "sit")
- ♣ Click first, then the reward is given (a reward can be a treat, praise, play or toy - whatever will motivate the dog)
- ♣ A reward is always given, whether a click happens - intentionally or accidentally. Failure to reward a click may result in loss of value of the clicker as a communication tool
- ♣ The clicker is not an attention getter - it should not be used to get a dog's attention in a stressful situation. Doing so diminishes the clicker of it's value as a communication tool. Try teaching a "watch" cue instead
- ♣ Once a newly taught behavior occurs a few times, a break is in order. After a short break, reward an already known behavior in order to keep the dog motivated for training, then proceed with the newly learned behavior.
- ♣ Keep training sessions short (3-5) minute and fun!
- ♣ It is better to do multiple short training sessions a day, rather than one half hour long session!
- ♣ Only say the cue once, such as "sit" and wait for the response. An owner who shouts "sit, sit sit sit" will train a dog who only responds to multiple repetitions of a cue.
- ♣ Try to keep your tone consistent
- ♣ If after a few tries the dog does not respond to a learned cue, you may use a "wrong" marker such as "ah, ah" and remove the reward or opportunity for the dog to receive reinforcement.