
Puppy Preschool Clicker Class
Session One Homework

Charging the Clicker – Introduce your puppy to the clicker during the first training session. Simply start with the clicker in your pocket. Click and give your puppy a treat. Do this a number of times. Next, move the clicker behind your back, click and treat. Repeat several times. Finally, move the clicker out into plain view and click and treat a few more times. The puppy will only need to be introduced to the clicker once. From now on, you can use the click as a marker and reward for a specific behavior such as “sit.”

Clicker Training Game – Play the clicker training game at least twice. Be the “dog” once and be the “trainer” once.

Timing Game – If you want to practice your timing, have someone throw a tennis ball for you and click each time it hits the ground. Another option is to watch a video and select a behavior (like someone speaking or lifting an arm). Hit the pause button each time you see this behavior.

Attention – Begin teaching your puppy to look at you (and give eye contact). Work with shaping this behavior. If you like when the behavior is being offered, you can put this behavior on cue with a word such as “watch” or you can leave it as a default behavior where the puppy will choose to look at you if it’s not sure what else to do.

Dog’s Name – If your puppy does not know his name yet, say your puppy’s name, and when he turns to look at you, click and treat. Repeat this 20-50 times for the puppy to learn name recognition. (I teach the puppy’s name separate from attention. For attention, I use the word “watch.”)

Sit – Begin teaching your puppy to sit this week. Work with capturing this behavior. Click and treat every time you see your puppy sit! Before long, sits will be offered readily and just add the verbal cue “sit” prior to the behavior. We will also want to teach the hand signal.

Reading

Concepts:

Chapter 1 (p. 17-20)

Chapter 4:

Training Concepts and Tips (p. 37)

Guidelines for Beginning Clicker Training (p. 39)

Motivation (p. 41)

Reinforcers (p. 42)

Getting the Behavior (p. 44)

Adding the Cue (p. 49)

Chapter 5

Developmental Stages (p. 64)

Socializing Pups and Introducing Dogs to New Things (p. 70)

Chapter 10

Crate Training (p. 153)

Housetraining (p. 154)



Behaviors:

Charging the clicker (p. 39)

Dog's Name (p. 79)

Attention (p. 80)

Sit (p. 81)

Motivation Exercise:

After reading the section on “Motivation” in this book, select five things your puppy will work for enthusiastically. Now, gather these items and have them available for training sessions. (Example: real chicken, hot dogs, salmon treats, stuffed Kong, squeaky toy.)