
Elementary Clicker Training Class
Session One Homework

Before beginning training, please review “General Training Tips” and “Guidelines for Beginning Clicker Training” in this book and apply these principles during training this week. Charge the clicker only the first time you introduce your dog to the clicker. It does not need to be done again.

New Behaviors:

Attention – Shape eye contact and your dog checking in with you. Read over the “Attention” section in this book and work on shaping this behavior. It’s easy and fun. When your dog is offering the behavior readily, if you choose you may add a cue such as “Watch” or you can allow this to be a default behavior.

Sit – Work with capturing the sit behavior. Simply click and treat each time you see your dog sitting. Soon this behavior will be readily offered! If your dog already sits on cue, practice asking for the behavior and then clicking and treating.

For this week, click and treat EVERY time your dog performs the behavior.

The Training Game – Play the Training Game at least twice. Be the “dog” once and be the “trainer” once. You will learn a lot playing this game!

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.

Mechanical Skills – Practice clicking and treating as we did in class. Take a handful of kibble and see how many clicks and treats (placed in a bowl) you can master in one minute.

Calming Ovals – Begin walking your dog in the oval pattern as demonstrated in class.

Reading

Concepts:

Chapter 1 (p. 17-20)

Chapter 2 (p. 21)

Chapter 3

Teaching Your Dog Self-Control (p. 27)

Chapter 4

Training Concepts and Tips (p. 37)

Guidelines for Beginning Clicker Training (p. 39)

The Training Game (p. 41)

Motivation (p. 41)

Reinforcers (p. 42)

Getting the Behavior (p. 44)

Adding the Cue (p. 49)

Varying the Reinforcement Schedule and Rewards (p. 51)

Generalization (p. 53)

Distraction Training (p. 54)

Chapter 8

Leadership (p. 132)

Exercise (p. 137)

Behaviors:

“Charging the Clicker” (p. 39)

Calming Ovals (p. 28)

Attention (p. 80)

Sit (p. 81)

Motivation Exercise:

After reading the section on “Motivation” in your handbook, make a list in priority order of five things your dog will work for enthusiastically. Now, gather these items and have them available for training sessions. (Example: real chicken, roast beef, stuffed Kong, ball, tug toy.)