

Clicker Training

Clicker training is one of the most modern, effective and enjoyable methods available. Based on sound scientific principles, this tool will allow you to communicate with your dog - and train him or her to do practically any action you choose.

What is a clicker?

A clicker is a small plastic box containing a piece of flexible steel. When pressed and released at one end, this makes a distinctive 'click, click' sound which can be taught to have meaning to your dog.

How does it work?

Over a number of repetitions, your dog can learn that the sound of the clicker means he's done the right thing and that a reward - food, play or affection, is on its way.

How will my dog understand what it means?

Your dog will make the association between the clicker and goodies by repetition and reward. The sound of the clicker marks the dog's action as being right, a little like putting a tick next to a correct sum on a page!

Why is the clicker so effective?

It is always positive and highly accurate. You can give clear information to your dog about his actions up close, or from a distance, without your feelings about your boss or the weather being expressed, as they often are in your voice. **The clicker rewards actions you like - simply ignore actions that you don't.**

Can all dogs be trained using the clicker?

Nearly all dogs, no matter what their age, can be trained with the clicker. Some very nervous dogs may need additional time or help, while older dogs that have been trained in 'traditional' ways may be a little reluctant to explore new behaviours at first. Patience is the key with these dogs!

How do I start?

Make sure you and your dog are somewhere calm, such as your lounge or the garden. Have some really tasty, small treats, such as cheese, sausage, or chicken at the ready. Hold the clicker behind your back to begin with - there is no need to point it at your dog, and you should avoid clicking too near his ears!

- Say your dog's name in a happy voice.
- As soon as he looks at you, click and give a reward.
- Repeat this three or four times.
- Soon, your dog will start to understand the meaning of the clicker and will react to the sound, thinking, "Great, where's my treat?!"

You will also have taught him to pay attention to you when you say his name!

Now you are ready to move on to other exercises and tasks!