

Puppy Walking and Clicker Training Class

Freedom Service Dogs Puppy Raisers & Sitters





What is dog training?

- Dog training is the process of systematically influencing your dog's experiences to encourage certain behaviors and discourage others.



What is Positive Reinforcement?

- Adding a reward to encourage desirable behaviors.
 - Individual dogs will decide what is rewarding to them.
 - Rewards and the value of those rewards can change from dog to dog, and from situation to situation.



Why do we use positive reinforcement?

- There are pitfalls to using punishment, especially pain or intimidation.
 - Distrust
 - Avoidance
 - Dislike of work/Training
 - Reliance upon a threat and sometimes a need to increase the intensity
 - Can produce negative associations → Stress, Fear, Anxiety, Reactivity, Disengagement, & Aggression

Pimento



Why do we use positive reinforcement?

- There are benefits to using positive reinforcement training (using rewards).
 - Encourages a strong bond and builds trust between a trainer and their dog. (Very important for a working relationship)
 - Builds confidence in your dog
 - Promotes positive associations → Confidence, Enjoys Interacting, & Wants to Train/Work



What can we use to reinforce our dogs?



Kibble



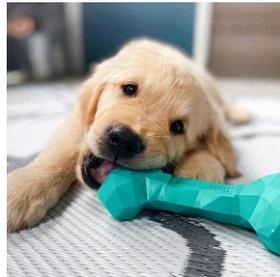
Walking, Sniffing,
Environmental Access



Happy Tones



Petting/Massage



Chewing



Play



Praise

Reinforcement with FSD Puppies:

- When reinforcing with food, we use kibble only
- Why don't we use higher-value treats?
 - Weight Management
 - Consistency
- 2.5 cups a day
- Be sure to utilize a mixture of all of these reinforcers.

-This dog is very motivated by food.

-He will offer every behavior that he knows in an effort to get a treat.

-Lets watch the video...



-If I toss him a treat at the end of this video, what am I rewarding him for?

- Barking three times?
- Sitting?
- Spinning?
- Rolling over?
- Wagging his tail?
- Eye contact?

-What do you think would happen if I tossed him a treat in the middle of the video?

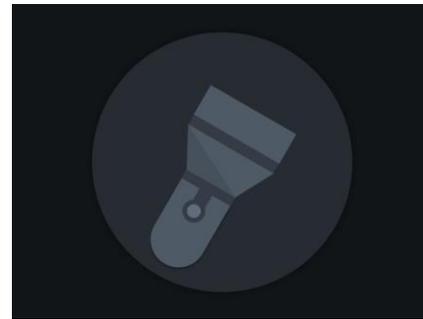


Marker Training

- What is Marker Training?
 - *“A form of positive reinforcement-based training that focuses on marking the behavior you like and reinforcing it, rather than focusing on the behavior you don't like.”*
– Karen Pryor Academy
- What is a Reward Marker?
 - A signal that **guarantees** the dog will get a reward, which helps us communicate exactly **WHEN** and **HOW** the dog earned a reward.

Types of Reward Markers

- Clicker
- Non-verbal Sound
- Hand Signal
- Marker Word
- Light (hearing impaired)





Clickers

- A handheld noisemaker that makes a distinct, consistent “click” when pressed
- Why do we like clickers for FSD Puppies?
 - Quick
 - Clear
 - Consistent
- Why we don't use marker words for FSD puppies:
 - Inconsistent
 - Can lose meaning
 - High potential for variation
 - Can lead to confusion

Let's Practice!

Havarti



Clicker Rules and Reminders

- Remember that a click happens the **instant** the desired behavior occurs.
- A click is a **PROMISE**. Your dog will **ALWAYS** get a treat after a click.
 - If you click by accident, even if it is following an undesirable behavior, you must still give that **PROMISED** treat. We don't want the clicker to lose meaning.
- A clicker is **NOT** to be used for getting a dog's attention, or to distract them.
- Refrain from using verbal or physical corrections while clicker training. This can create negative associations that can work against your training.

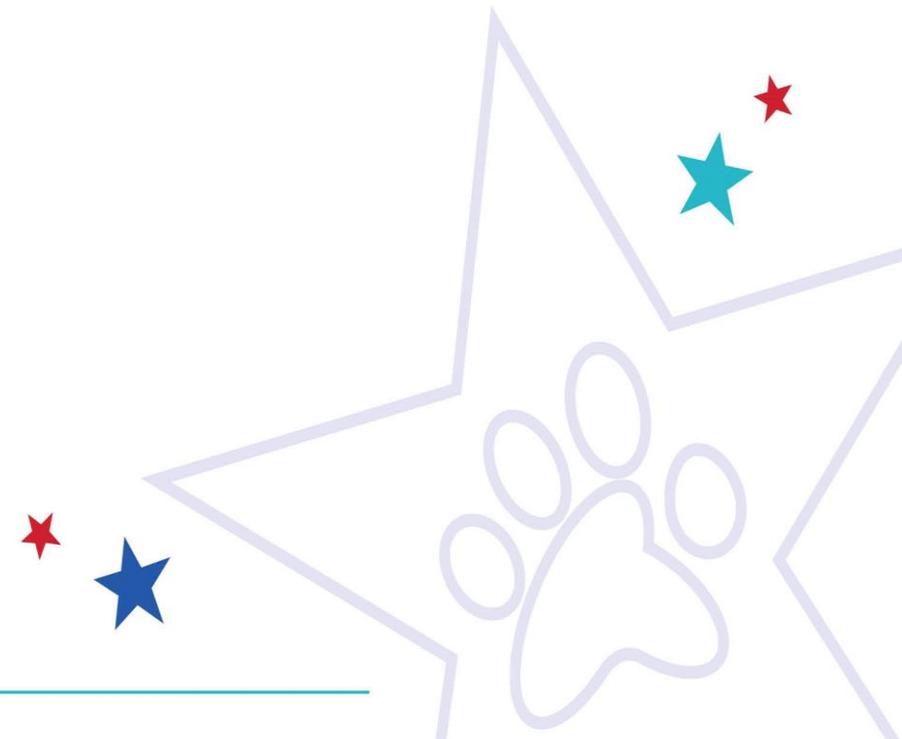
Clicker Rules and Reminders (Cont.)

- Keep training sessions short and fun.
- Aim to end on a good note.
- Playing after a training session can also help build positive associations and make it more fun and effective.



Now I know how to click and treat(C/T)... How do I teach my dog a skill so that I can C/T?

- There are four methods we use to teach a dog a new skill.
 - Capturing
 - Luring
 - Shaping
 - Targeting

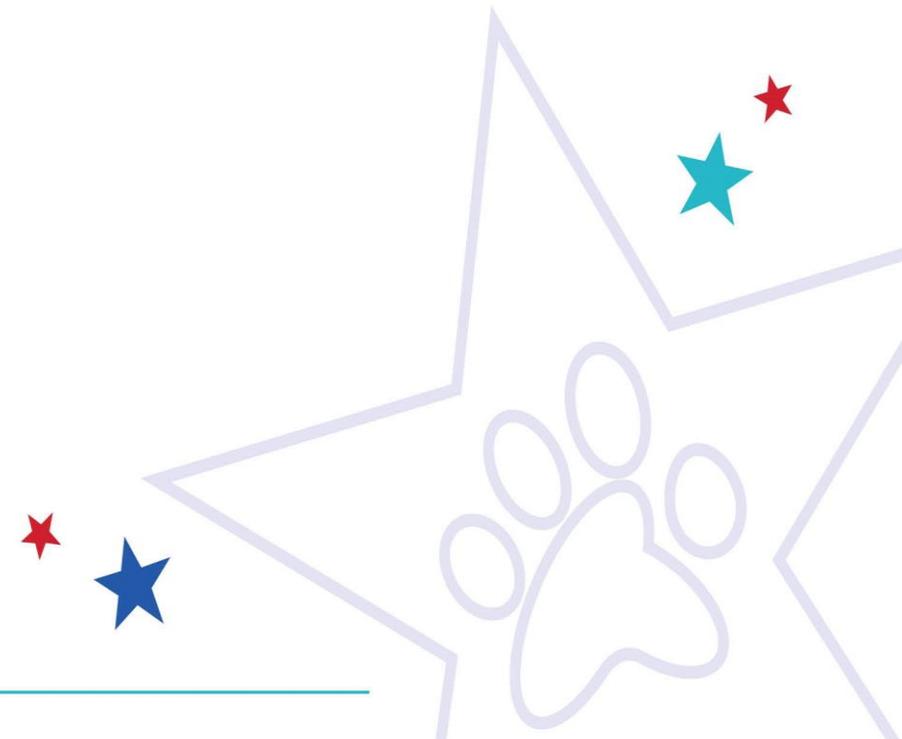


Capturing

- Rewarding a dog for natural behavior. You will wait for them to naturally offer that behavior then, you will “capture” that moment in time by marking the behavior (with a click), and/or providing a reward.
- Example of this method being used: Capturing the moment that a dog decides to walk past a piece of kibble on the ground while walking around the FSD building.

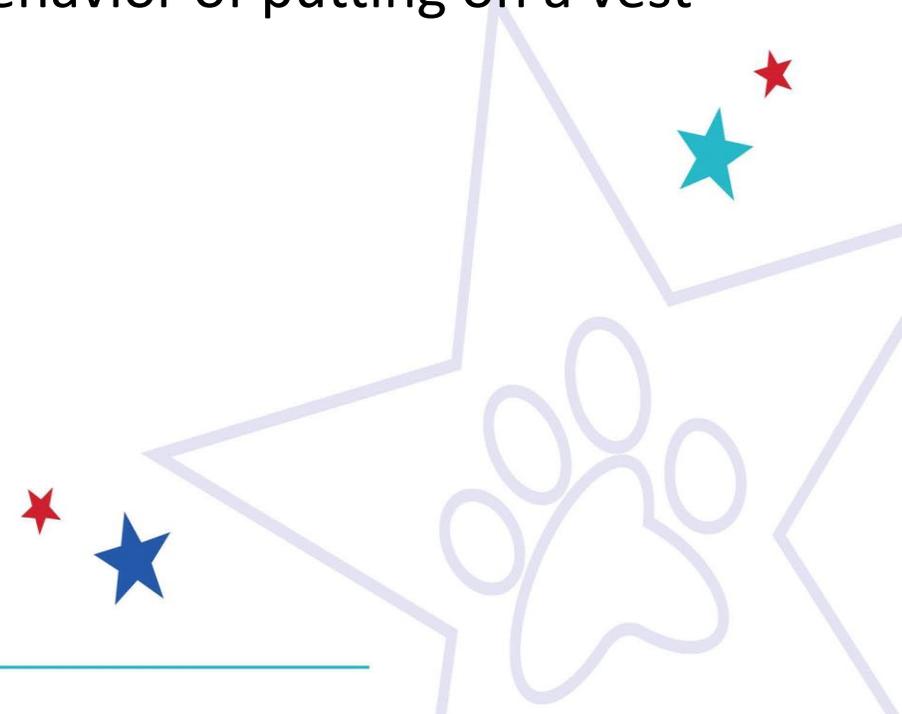
Luring

- Using a baited hand to draw a dog into a space or position.
 - Example of this method being used: Luring a dog into a sitting position.



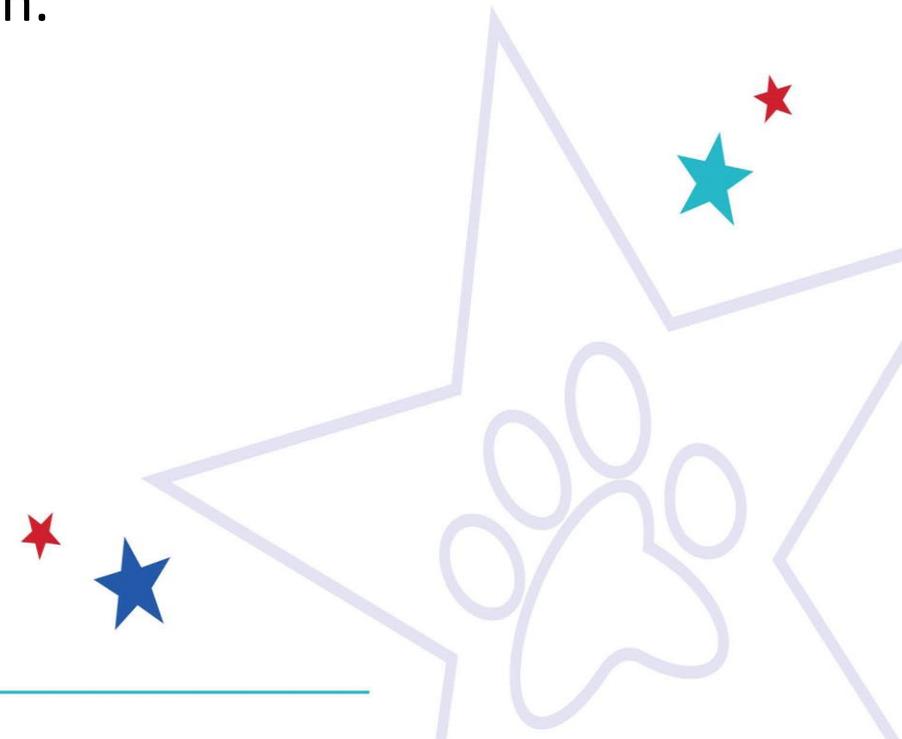
Shaping

- Rewarding for small pieces/baby steps towards the desired behavior as part of a process to morph it into a more complex behavior
- Example of this method being used: Shaping the behavior of putting on a vest with the “Get Dressed” cue.



Targeting

- Teaching a dog to use their nose or paw to touch a hand or object
 - Example of this method being used: Training a dog to put their head through the top of a vest, or to move into the under position.



Once a dog begins reliably offering a certain behavior, we will pair it with a cue.

- What is a cue?
 - A signal to the dog to do a particular behavior.
 - A cue can be verbal, physical, environmental, or a combination of the three
- Cue Rules:
 - The cue should come before the behavior and C/T
 - Avoid repeating cues
 - Don't say the cue after the behavior has been performed (i.e. "Good Sit")

Once a Behavior is On Cue

- In the beginning, you will C/T for every desired behavior that you are working on
- As your dog becomes more reliable with what you are asking (within certain environments and criteria), you can start to reduce the rate of reinforcement.
- You will start to provide praise and other reinforcement for the dog, including treats from time to time to maintain the behavior.
- If the environment and/or the criteria change, you will need to move back to step one and start this process over again.
- Changes can include:
 - Increasing distance, duration, or adding a distraction (The 3 Ds)
 - Modifying or adding to the behavior
 - Changing Environment
 - Changing Handlers

How you deliver a treat can have a huge impact!

- Remember to click, **then** reach into your treat pouch for the treat. Do not leave your hand in the “cookie jar”.
- Deliver the treat all the way to the puppy’s mouth.
 - We do not want to encourage the puppy to step in front of us, to jump up, or to eat food from the ground.
 - Keep in mind, where you place the treat will affect how the dog performs a behavior over time.

Troubleshooting

- Re-evaluate your training plan:
 - Did I set them up for success?
 - Oops Moments
- Is your dog comfortable?
 - Did you notice any stress cues or displacement postures?



- Remember to keep sessions short, and aim to end on a high note!



Now that we've
worked on clicker
training, let's take our
puppy for a walk!

Equipment

- Flat Collar
- 4ft Leash
 - No flexi-leads
 - No bungee leads
- Treat Bag w/ Kibble
- Clicker



Flat Collar



4ft Leash



Clicker



Kibble

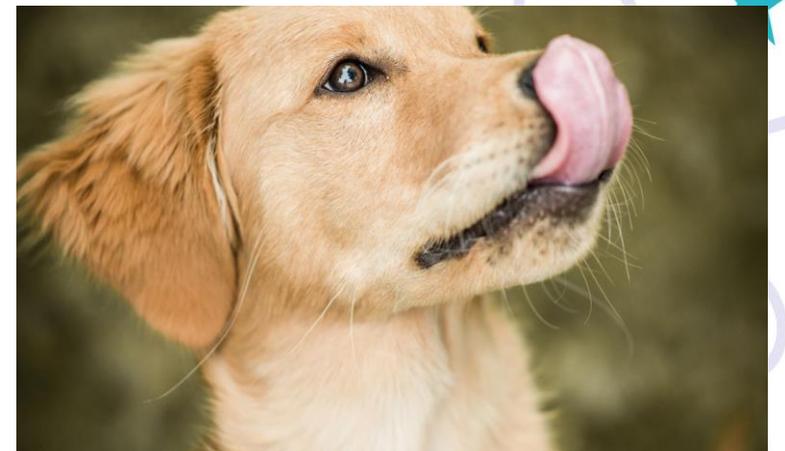


Treat Bag



Walking Basics

- **Bring kibble**
 - We want to ensure that we have food to reward good behaviors on our walk
- **Stay Relaxed!**
 - “Emotions travel down the leash.”
 - Dogs will pick up on tightened grips, tension in our voices, or anxiety in our body language.
- **Motivate Your Dog!**
 - Higher-pitched verbal praise and a quick pace can help a distracted dog focus
 - Low-pitched verbal praise and calm petting can calm a dog down





Safety

- FSD dogs should **NEVER, EVER** be off leash on walks!
- Ideally, limit walks to be shorter when the temperature is above **80°** or **below 32°**.
- Avoid other dogs as much as possible by keeping your distance, walking in a different direction, or pulling off to the side as another dog passes
- Do not let your dog eat anything off the ground or drink out of puddles.
- Don't let your puppy greet other people and **NEVER** let them greet other dogs on leash.
- If an off-leash dog is approaching, you can make yourself look big by raising your arms out, or tossing a handful of treats at the approaching dog while you move away

What behaviors do I reward on a walk?

- **Maintaining “Heel” Position**

- Mark and treat your dog maintaining a proper heel position.
- Don’t wait for them to pull to mark for correct behavior

- **Disengaging From Distractions**

- If your dog looks at something that could be distracting (bunny, people, sound, etc.) and then looks back at you, mark and treat.

- **Ignoring Distractions**

- Not sniffing the person you walk passed or trying to eat something off the floor.

- **Stopping When You Stop**

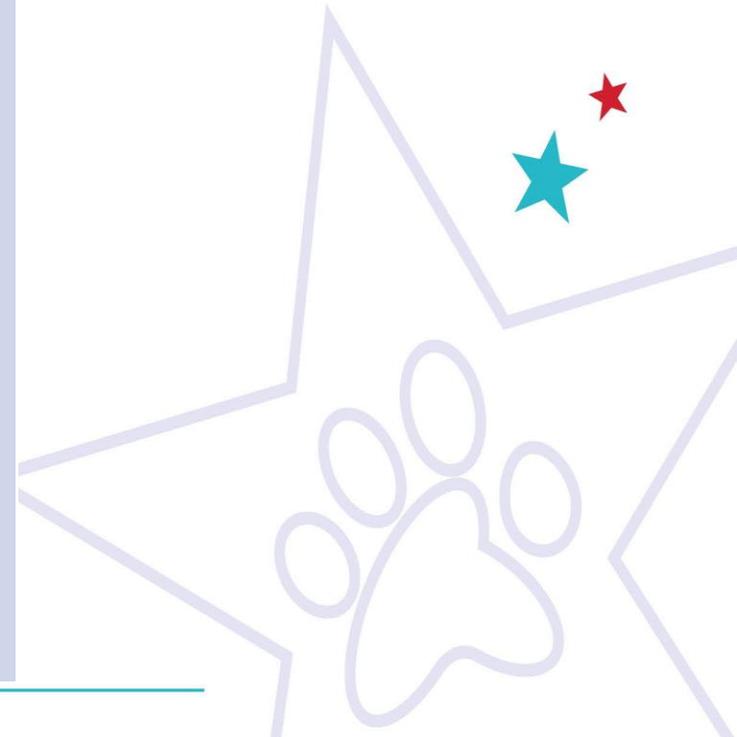
Proper “Heel” Position

- A “loose leash” is when your dog isn’t pulling ahead and remains on your left side with their shoulders in line with your hip. This is also known as “Heel” Position
- There should be slack in the leash. We want a short but loose leash!
- The dog should be focused and walking calmly
- They should not pull or lunge to sniff, visit people, greet other dogs, or eat things off the ground



Do's and Don'ts

DO	DON'T
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be ready to catch good behaviors and mark them2. Utilize proper leash holding techniques3. Reward often as you build a new relationship4. Be proactive when it comes to distractions and difficult situations5. Bring kibble!	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pre-load your hand with treats or have your hand in the treat pouch2. Repeat cues3. Use constant chatter to keep your dog's attention4. Wrap the leash around your hand5. Forget to be aware of your surroundings when focusing on your dog



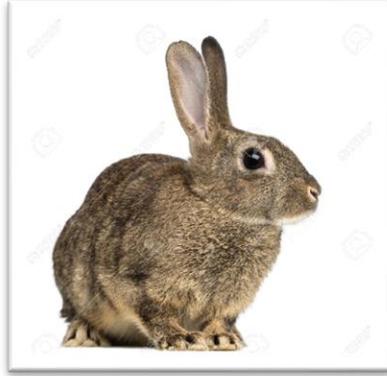
Pulling

- What are some reasons your puppy pulls on a leash?
- How might we fix this?
 - **Stop.**
 - Stand like a tree
 - Don't let more leash out
 - Wait until your puppy releases the pressure on the leash
 - Start walking again
 - **Don't** reward right away
 - **Do** reward after a step or two of proper heel position
- Expectations change based on the age and training of the puppy.
- This is used no matter what direction your puppy is pulling.





Leash Reactivity



Prey Drive



Pulling toward people

What Other Problems Might I Run Into?



Jumping



Sniffing



How to Address These Problems

- **#1** if you do experience any of these issues, you can refer to the FAQ for basic training guidance. Weekend Fosters and Puppy Raisers will each have access to an FAQ related to the individual program.
- **#2** if the FAQ guidance is not enough, puppy raisers should reach out to the puppy development trainers. Weekend fosters should follow the emergency contact protocol if they are unable to address the issue safely.
- **Solutions for in the moment:**
 - If you have kibble and are in an urgent situation, use it as a lure to get the dog or puppy away
 - Get space – move your dog away from the distraction
 - Regain your puppy's attention by asking for an easy cue like "sit"
 - Continue in a different direction

