

What Is Clicker Training?

Clicker training (sometimes referred to as marker, operant, or positive reinforcement training) is a training technique developed from behavioral psychology that can be used to teach any animal any behavior that they are mentally and physically capable of performing.

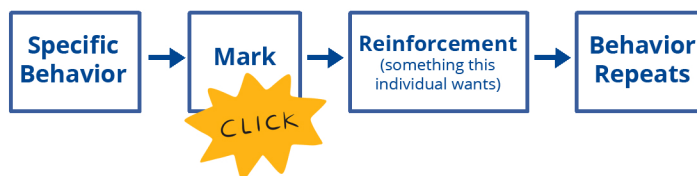
Clicker training was first applied outside of laboratory settings in marine mammal training by notable training pioneers, including Karen Pryor. Since then, it has been used across all species (including humans) in many different contexts from training surgeons to aiding in conservation efforts with endangered species. Its most popular and well-known use is with household pets, particularly dogs.



The clicker is a small hand-held device with a button that makes a CLICK sound when it is pressed.

The click is always followed by a treat. The click should always be followed up with a reinforcer. This communicates to the learner that they have done something that is worth repeating because it will result in something they want.

A typical food reinforcer used with dogs are pea-sized (or smaller) treats.



Use this quick and easy process to teach your dog what the CLICK means:

WHAT YOU NEED



YOUR DOG



A CLICKER

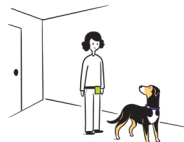


LOTS of
TINY TREATS



TREAT
POUCH

SETTING UP



A quiet place
with no distractions



Your clicker in
one hand, other
hand is still.



Treats in your pouch
you can easily reach

Teach Your Dog What the CLICK Means

1

Click the clicker once



2

Grab one treat
from your pouch



3

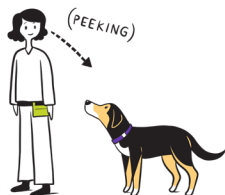
Feed the treat to
your dog



REPEAT
10 TIMES

Test Your Dog's Understanding

Stand still.
Pretend to ignore
your dog



When they look away
from you, click!
Watch their reaction.



If No Reaction



Do another
10 repetitions

1 2 3
TEST again



If your dog's ears
go up/ your
dog turns
towards you

YOU are READY

Start using the
CLICKER as a
training tool!

