

# **Training Reliable Behaviors**

Have you ever taught a dog to sit, only to be frustrated when they will not sit on a walk, while guests are over, or while a toddler is running around holding snacks? You are not alone. Training a behavior so that your dog will perform it in **real-world scenarios** takes some time, but thankfully there is a process to help get you there effectively and efficiently.



Capture, shape, or use a target to help teach your dog the new behavior. Your trainer will help you determine which technique is best for your dog.

### ADD THE CUE



When your dog is offering the behavior you can add a cue so that you can communicate when you want your dog to perform the behavior.

1. DURATION



Ping-pong between short and slightly longer times before you click. This will keep your dog's motivation up by setting them up for success while still progressing towards your goals.

## The 3 Ds

### 2. DISTRACTION



Start with very easy distractions and work up to your dog's most challenging distraction.

#### 3. DISTANCE



Vary how close to and how far away from your dog you stand. As with duration, ping-pong the distance to keep motivation up.

2 Ds Alone



DURATION + DISTANCE / DISTRACTION + DISTANCE
Begin to combine the Ds. Always start with the
easiest combination and work your way up to
more challenging combinations.

—All 3 Ds Together



Now you are ready to combine all 3 of the Ds together. Start with the easiest combination and work your up to more difficult ones.

Following this process, your dog will be able to perform a new behavior under real-world conditions.

