

## Clicker Training

Clicker training is positive reinforcement but with an extra tool which helps your dog to learn. The click sound defines the behaviour that we want the dog to repeat.

For the click to mean anything to the dog, it must first be introduced as a prelude to a treat. We link the sound with the food reward via a process of tuning in. This is a process of clicking and giving a treat, multiple times over a few sessions.

Clicker treats should be tiny and tasty. Not enough to chew but enough to leave the dog feeling like something amazing is on offer.

**The following set of session should take place over 1 to 3 days.**

### Session 1

Press the clicker **10 times** and give the dog a tiny treat each time. End the session with a game.

### Session 2

Press the clicker **15 times** and give the dog a tiny treat each time. End the session with a game.

### Session 3

Press the clicker **12 times** and give the dog a tiny treat each time. End the session with a game.

### Session 4

Press the clicker **12 times** and give the dog a tiny treat each time. End the session with a game.

### Session 5

By session 5, the dog should hear the click whilst distracted and look directly to you for a treat.

If the dog doesn't respond, repeat the sessions above and continue the tuning in process until you are confident the dog knows that click means treat. From the point that your dog is tuned in to the clicker, every time he hears the sound he must receive a treat otherwise the click will lose its effect for training.

Next you can start to click natural behaviours that you would like your dog to repeat, such as sit or keep all 4 feet on the ground rather than jump up. You can click a loose leash and click when your dog looks to you for guidance. Remember that whenever your dog hears the click, he is learning to repeat the exact thing he's doing at the time. So, don't click to get his attention when he's running away.