



Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

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Caring for Dogs~ Maintaining Health & Wellbeing

The Fun Way to Train Your Dog



What is clicker training?

Clicker training is a fun, efficient and stress-free way to train your dog. Clicker training helps your dog to learn which behaviours are 'right' through positive reinforcement.

A clicker is a small plastic device which makes a 'click' sound when pressed. Your dog will learn to associate the click with the reward to follow.

The clicker does NOT mean 'hey you' or 'come here' or 'look at me'. The clicker marks the behaviour you like your dog to do. These behaviours may include, sitting down, being quiet & not barking, looking at you or going to their mat or bed. With clicker training, you don't need to order your dog around. The less you talk, the more your dog can concentrate on what he is doing.

Clicker training 'captures' the good behaviours you want and reinforces them so they are more likely to keep happening. There is no need for punishment - bad behaviours are simply ignored, not reinforced and therefore usually become less frequent.

How does it work?

In order to show your dog he has done the right thing (ie. not jumped up on you), we need to 'click' him at the exact moment the dog is standing or sitting in front of you. The clicker allows you to tell your dog very clearly that he is doing the behaviour you want. It makes it easier for your dog to understand what he did right to earn the reward which followed the 'click'.

Timing is very important - good timing on your part gives the dog a consistent signal of reward for 'right' behaviour. Behaviours that don't result in a click & a food treat are the behaviours you don't wish to encourage. Over time, without the 'click & treat' reward these behaviours will diminish.

The best way to train using a clicker is to plan in advance what you are going to train - that is which behaviour you want to reinforce. Start at home and keep training sessions short.

What are the benefits?

- It works and it's fun
- It helps timid dogs gain confidence
- Does not rely on physical strength - anyone in the family can use it
- It is a very precise, scientifically proven method
- It teaches dogs to think and be creative
- It is easy for the dog to understand
- It is useful for pushy or aggressive dogs without being confrontational
- It encourages the dog to pay more attention to you It builds a relationship based on trust not fear

*Information courtesy of Urbandogz
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