

TRICK TRAINING MASTERCLASS - Week 1 notes



Sit Pretty!

Requires core strength, takes time to build balance. Difficult for long backed short legged breeds. Caution around joint or spine disorders. Each click point might need to be practiced between 10-30 times, depending on the individual dog.

- Click point 1 - full neck stretch. Trouble shoot for very mannerly dogs who don't follow the lure, thinking its a 'waiting' game, click them for following the treat by moving around the floor a little and capturing any movement towards the treat.
- Click point 2 - one paw off floor (easier from a sit). Trouble shooting, if you dog stops reaching for the treat - drop your hand lower. Your hand should be right in front of their nose. Some dogs may skip the phase entirely and go right to two paws - that's great saves you a step.
- Click point 3 - Two paws off floor.
- Click point 4 - Straight back. Allow puppies to use you for balance with their paws, feed slowly from luring hand to encourage duration hold.
- Click point 5 - Remove food lure - keep hand in same position in front of nose. Click when criteria of straight back met (no duration), and feed from other hand once paws are on the floor.
- Click point 6 - Move prompting hand away from nose 2". Click when criteria of straight back met (no duration), and feed from other hand once paws are on the floor.
- Click point 7 - Move hand further away to 6". Click when criteria of straight back met (no duration), and feed from other hand once paws are on the floor.
- Add your cue at this stage - verbal or physical. Cue it one time with the 'new cue', then give your 'old cue' from step 7, to show your dog what you mean by this new thing.
- Add duration by teaching a 'wait' – to come later.

Peekaboo!

Tricky for short owners with big dogs - stand on a pile of books to gain a little height if needed!

- Click Point 1 - Shoulder behind your calf. One treat in either hand to lure, feed from hand between legs. Easiest to hold clicker in the first luring hand so your 'click' isn't right next to the dogs face.
- Click Point 2 - Head between your legs. A sticking point for some less confident dogs, split this criteria if needed.
- Click point 3 - Head completely through legs. If they stay in position, continue to feed to reinforce it! (Only one click though)
- Click point 4 - Dependant on your finished behaviour, you might add a sit, down or leave it in a stand ready for 'hop on' or 'can can', which we will teach at a later date.

Homework

Practice EVERYWHERE to proof your work for differing environments. The key to successful dog training is training well initially (which you are of course doing) then taking the new behaviour on the road to practice in a million different arenas. So when you need your dog to perform for you - they are well prepped and unfazed by the environment.

Tell us how you are doing on the FB group, and don't forget the live Q&A on Monday @7pm Xx

Christina