# Using Treats

**Goal:** To make it easy and fast for you to train your dog.

Steps:

- ❧ Your dog must earn each and every treat
- ❧ Never give her a treat for free
- ❧ In the teaching phase treats are leverage
- ❧ You must become the "keeper of the treats"
- ❧ Determine based on your dog's personal taste which treats are best to use.
- ❧ We have three levels of treats
  - ❧ Gold: Favorite treat given on rare occasions i.e.: left over chicken, beef. etc.
  - ❧ Silver: Favored treat given more often i.e.: their favorite treat from the pet store.
  - ❧ Bronze: Treats they still like but aren't their top two i.e.: biscuits, fruits and veggies, etc.
- ❧ Gold treats are the best and should be used when the stakes are at their highest. When the environment competes with you for your dog's attention, for example when there are other dogs around.
- ❧ Silver treats are used for medium level circumstances.
- ❧ Bronze treats are used when it's not that challenging.
- ❧ Some treats can be low calorie and healthy like chicken, carrots apples etc.
- ❧ You can also use their dog food as a treat. Just put it in a plastic bag with treat powder (those little bits at the bottom of a bag of treats) to make their dog food extra special
- ❧ In order to avoid your dog from getting bored, mix/rotate treats. Remember variety is the spice of life!
- ❧ Always reward within three seconds of the behavior so that it's very clear to your dog what she has done correctly to earn the treat.
- ❧ The best method is to have two or three treats already broken into small pieces and keep them in small containers around your house. Keep them in every room that you spend time together and especially by the front door where your dog is likely to get the most excited.
- ❧ When training you want to have the treats in your hand so you can reward immediately.
- ❧ Here is the rule of thumb: If you are right-handed your "storage hand" (the one in which you keep the treats) is going to be your left hand and vice versa.
- ❧ Treats should always be broken into small pieces.
- ❧ Always make sure you have enough treats in your hand.
- ❧ The number one question is "Will I have to always rely on treats for my dog to listen to me?" The answer is: In the teaching phase we use treats as the motivator.

**The Las Vegas Reward Method**

- ❖ As your dog learns the command we start to use "random rewards", meaning your dog doesn't always get a treat for each time she does the behavior but rather randomly, for her better or faster responses! Do NOT gradually get rid of the treats, as that is a mistake.
    - 🐾 In the teaching phase your dog is rewarded for EVERY success using both a tasty treat and a happy tone of voice. As soon as your dog does it a little faster and better they will get rewarded with a "jackpot" being 5-7 treats and speaking in an excited tone of voice

        1.Once your dog has learned the command start rewarding with the "Las Vegas method" which is random rewards but continuing jackpots for better and faster actions

    - 🐾 Relevance Training is replacing treats with everyday fun experiences. Ask your dog to sit before inviting her to join you on the couch, before giving her a chew toy, before feeding, or before any activities that your dog likes. We want your dog to learn what makes YOU happy! Keep your dog enthusiastic about continuing good behavior and still give her jackpots from time to time especially if she did a great job

What are your Treats?

| Gold Level Treats | |
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| Silver Level Treats | |
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| Bronze Level Treats | |
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