

TRICK TRAINING MASTERCLASS - Week 6 notes



Crawl!

Might be tricky for dogs with back or joint pain and involves strange body mechanics which some dogs might find difficult to grasp. Think about final behaviour – do you want your dog crawling along next to you in a heel position, or crawling towards you? Train this way from the start, from dog in a down position. Set goal for how far a crawl you are working towards and stick to it!

- Lure forward, click point for hip movement.
- Next click point for shoulder movement (following hip movement)
- Next click point for hip movement again (following hip, and shoulder) to isolate movements.
- Remove lure
- Add vocal cue
- Fade prompt to final human position (standing at heel, or in front of dog – may need further breaking down)

Go Hide!

Such a fun summer holiday shaping trick to play with, resulting in an entertaining finish to delight the onlookers! Might be slower paced for dogs who don't like physical contact (e.g. some herders) so go slow. Equipment needed is an old-fashioned soft suitcase, big enough for your dogs 'bed', and WITHOUT the bars sometimes included to strengthen the case. Gumtree? eBay? Charity shops?

Step ONE: Shaping getting in suitcase: Click points - look toward case, step toward, sniff, touch, chin over "threshold", paw on, front paw in, 2 paws in, 3 paws in, 4 paws in, sit, lie down. Treating away to reset the dog.

(not ever step is needed if you dog skips them naturally, and remember not to move backward once you have new criteria achieved)

Step TWO: Acclimating to closed lid: Feed dog continuously in down position. Click and treat away to reset. Click points Lid fully opened, lid half open, lid $\frac{3}{4}$ closed, closed for split second - split criteria if needed.

CARE NOT TO FRIGHTEN PUP – MAY SET BACK WEEKS.

Step THREE: Get in with closed lid: Click points, lid half open, lid $\frac{3}{4}$ closed, lid ALMOST shut!

Step FOUR: Dog pushes lid open with nose: Shaping again, suitcase lid closed but propped open a tad to allow ease of access. Treats inside case (which the dog sees you hide) Click points, touch seam of case, wet nose inside, bridge of nose inside, eyes inside crown of head inside, ears inside, head and paw inside, two paws in side, three and four paws inside, sit and lie down – all with 'natural' contact from the lid.

- Add a vocal cue
- Increase distance to send dog
- Increase duration

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. That way, 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! Xx

A handwritten signature "Christina" in blue ink, with a light blue heart shape drawn around the end of the name.