

# What Is Clicker Training?

**Clicker training** (sometimes referred to as marker, operant, or positive reinforcement training) is a training technique developed from behavioral psychology that can be used to teach any animal any behavior that they are mentally and physically capable of performing.

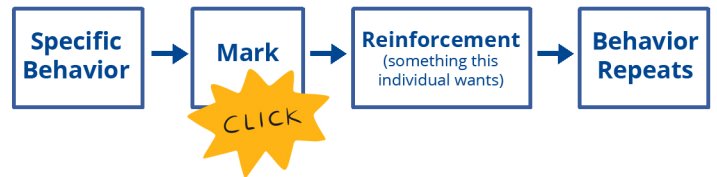
Clicker training was first applied outside of laboratory settings in marine mammal training by notable training pioneers, including Karen Pryor. Since then, it has been used across all species (including humans) in many different contexts from training surgeons to aiding in conservation efforts with endangered species. Its most popular and well-known use is with household pets, particularly dogs.



**The clicker** is a small hand-held device with a button that makes a CLICK sound when it is pressed.

**The click is always followed by a treat.** The click should always be followed up with a reinforcer. This communicates to the learner that they have done something that is worth repeating because it will result in something they want.

A typical food reinforcer used with dogs are pea-sized (or smaller) treats.



Use this quick and easy process to teach your dog what the CLICK means:

## WHAT YOU NEED



YOUR DOG



A CLICKER

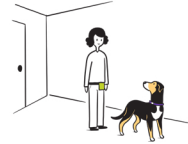


LOTS of TINY TREATS



TREAT POUCH

## SETTING UP



A quiet place with no distractions



Your clicker in one hand, other hand is still.



Treats in your pouch you can easily reach

## Teach Your Dog What the CLICK Means

1 Click the clicker once



2 Grab one treat from your pouch



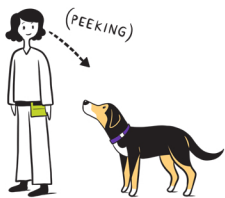
3 Feed the treat to your dog



REPEAT  
10 TIMES

## Test Your Dog's Understanding

Stand still. Pretend to ignore your dog



When they look away from you, click! Watch their reaction.



If No Reaction



Do another 10 repetitions

1 2 3  
TEST again



If your dog's ears go up/ your dog turns towards you

**YOU are READY**

Start using the CLICKER as a training tool!

