



# All Round Good Hounds

Hi everyone

Just thought before you start your puppy class with us we would get you started already on your homework 😊

As dogs don't understand English we need to be able to communicate with them to tell them that what they have done at that particular time is correct. This is where your Marker word comes in

Marker word - a marker word tells the dog that what he/she has done at that particular time is correct. Examples of marker words are "yes" "done" "treat" can also be a clicker.

We suggest that the words good dog, good girl, good boy, or good not be used as this has already been used too much with no value. Your marker word must 100% of the time follow food. There must be a high value on this word

Conditioning a marker word

The way we condition a marker word is simple, the same way that Pavlov conditioned the bell to the dog to mean food was coming.

We start this process by having several pieces of food in your hand and with your puppy on lead say your marker word and then straight away deliver the food to the puppy. No matter what the puppy is doing or which way he is facing deliver the food straight to his mouth. Remember it is important to only say the marker word once and on its own so no using the dogs name and marker word together. Do 6 repetitions 3 times a day and you will have your marker word conditioned in not time 😊

The next most important thing to teach your dog is a release word 😊

Release Word - no longer do we use in class a "stay" or "wait" cue we ask our dogs to perform the cue and then hold until we release them or ask them to do something else. For example i ask my dog to sit and then i teach them to stay there until they are asked to let say "drop" or if the sit is the only exercise then i release them using our release cue when we are finished. The release cue is a communication with our dog that they can break position still engage with me as we will be doing more but have a breather. Examples of release cues are "free" "party" "release" one term we say not to use is "ok" as we use this too much in normal conversation and placed in context if you are going for a walk and you ask your dog to stop on the side of the road and sit and wait. If you are walking with someone else or talking on the phone there is a high chance you will say the word "ok" which will release your dog to cross the road when it may not be safe.