

Teaching your dog to use a slatmill with positive reinforcement involves a series of gradual steps to ensure the dog is comfortable and motivated. Here's a step-by-step guide:

Harness and Size

- Ensure the harness fits snugly, but not pushing against the lower throat area. The band should rest below the throat on or below the collar bone.
- Attach Harness to the chains to secure your dog on the slatmill.

1. Introduce the Slatmill

Large is intended for large and medium size dogs. It is equipped with a hand brake (red tabbed lever), Medium is for small to med/large dogs, small slatmill is for smaller dogs up to 25lbs.

- **Goal:** Familiarize your dog with the slatmill.
- **Steps:**
 - Allow your dog to explore the slatmill while it's stationary.
 - Reward your dog with treats and praise for approaching or sniffing the slatmill.

2. Encourage Standing on the Slatmill

- **Goal:** Get your dog comfortable standing on the slatmill.
- **Steps:**
 - Use treats to lure your dog onto the slatmill.
 - Attach the harness to safety chain. Your dog should not be able to take more than 2-3 steps forward or backward once attached.
 - Reward with treats and praise when all four paws are on the slatmill.
 - Gradually increase the time your dog spends standing on it before giving treats.

3. Introduce Movement

- **Goal:** Acclimate your dog to the movement of the slatmill.
- **Steps:**
 - Gently move the slatmill manually while your dog is on it.
 - Start with very slow movement and reward your dog for staying on the slatmill.
 - Gradually increase the movement as your dog becomes more comfortable.

4. Encourage Walking

- **Goal:** Teach your dog to walk on the slatmill.
- **Steps:**
 - Use a leash if necessary to guide your dog.
 - Encourage your dog to take a few steps on the moving slatmill.
 - Reward your dog immediately after a few steps, gradually increasing the number of steps before rewarding.

5. Build Duration

- **Goal:** Increase the duration of walking on the slatmill.
- **Steps:**
 - Gradually increase the amount of time your dog spends walking on the slatmill.
 - Continue using treats and praise to reinforce positive behavior.
 - Take breaks if your dog seems tired or stressed.

6. Increase Speed Gradually

- **Goal:** Accustom your dog to different speeds.
- **Steps:**
 - Slowly increase the speed of the slatmill over multiple sessions.
 - Reward your dog for adapting to the new speed.
 - Keep sessions short and positive to prevent fatigue and stress.

7. Create a Routine

- **Goal:** Make slatmill exercise a regular and enjoyable part of your dog's routine.
- **Steps:**
 - Establish a consistent schedule for slatmill sessions.
 - Keep sessions fun and engaging with treats, toys, or verbal praise.
 - Monitor your dog for signs of fatigue or discomfort.

Tips:

- **Patience:** Be patient and progress at your dog's pace.
- **Consistency:** Consistent training and positive reinforcement are key.
- **Observe:** Watch for any signs of discomfort or fear and adjust the training accordingly.