

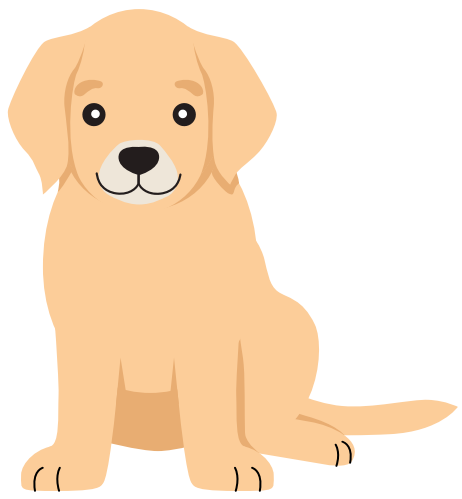
Creating Reinforcement History

What is Reinforcement History?

Reinforcement is anything which causes a behaviour to increase. Therefore reinforcement history is the amount of times the behaviour has been reinforced to the dog.

The higher the reinforcement history, the more likely the dog is to repeat that behaviour.

This is important to understand. As it is vital in training behaviours in our dogs we like to see.



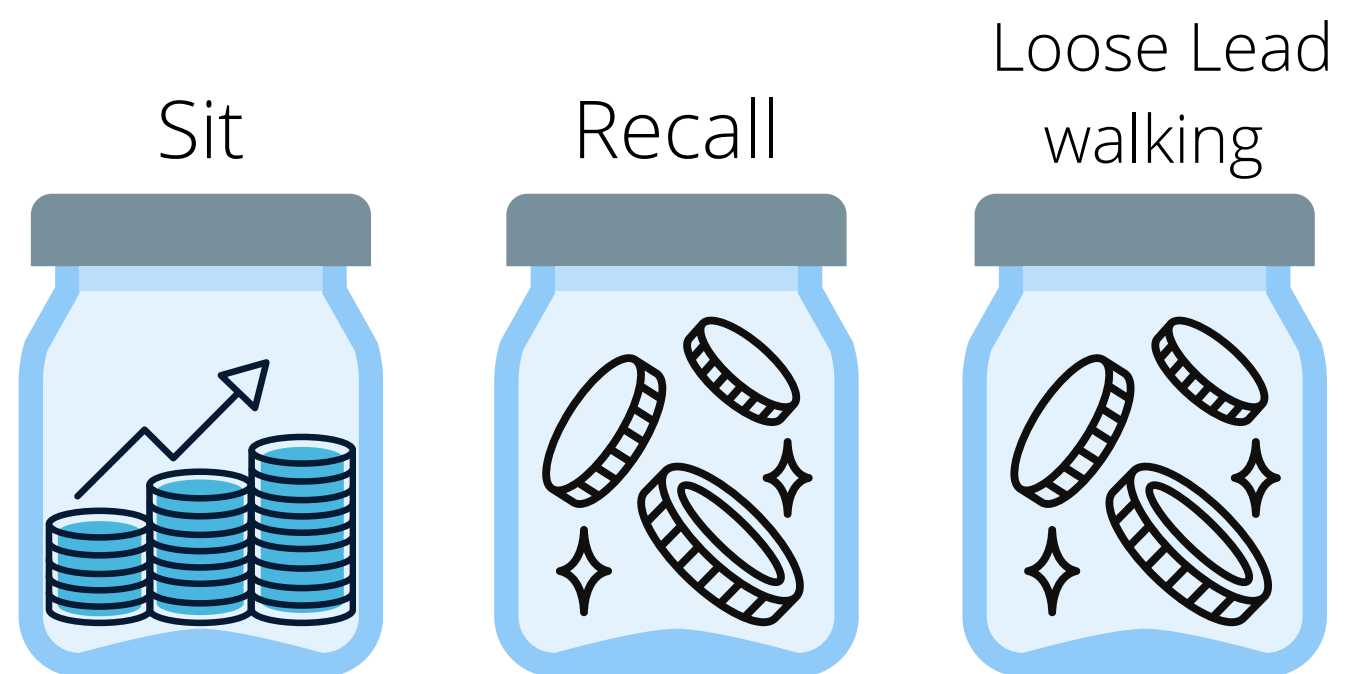
It is also important to understand this concept when our dog repeats behaviours we don't like to see. Such as barking or jumping up.

We need to ask ourselves is our dog being reinforced for this behaviour to continue.

The answer is probably yes. Your job is to figure out where the reinforcement is coming from. As it may be YOU (unintentionally) by saying NO or the environment.



What does your dogs reinforcement history look like?



Each behaviour your dog performs is a jar.

Think of their daily food you give them as coins... their currency.

Use their daily allowance of food wisely to create good reinforcement history for behaviours you like!

The more currency in the jar for a particular behaviour, the higher the reinforcement history for that behaviour... *and*

....the more likely that behaviour will happen again and again....

You're *ALWAYS* paying into a "jar" whenever you interact with your dog. Whether you realise it or not. So always be aware and pay into the behaviour jars you want.

Start building your dogs reinforcement history today for behaviours you want to see.



This is why we are heavily reinforcing desired behaviours like "sit" and "4 feet on the floor" during puppy class!

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