

Clicker Training



What is clicker training?

Clicker training is one of the most successful training methods to use. It is derived from dolphin training originally! The idea behind this technique is that dogs are able to understand exactly what we are asking of them. When used correctly, we are able to precisely tell the dog the exact moment that they are performing 'desirable' behaviour. The basic method only works if the sound of the clicker is used at the precise moment that a particular training exercise is completed to reinforce the positive behaviour.

What is a clicker?

They are small, plastic devices with a metal strip that, when pressed and released, make a loud 'click' sound! Very basic but very useful!

What are the benefits?

The clicker is a much faster and simpler means of communicating correct behaviour over the spoken word. Dogs love this form of training as it is completely positive and reward based.



Over time, you will actually see them experimenting, listening for the click, then experimenting again until they hear it. Dogs enjoy this training technique as it is very stimulating for them and because this method encourages co-operation without stress.

How to get started?

Basic Tips to start with:

- Press the clicker at the exact moment the correct behaviour is displayed (not 2-3 seconds later).
- Reinforce the click with good things, namely a treat (preferably a soft one that is easily consumed without distraction). Vary the length of time between the click and the treat.
- Start new exercises in small steps, clicking and rewarding each step until they can perform the whole exercise in one step.
- Don't discipline your dog when they get it wrong. Give them time to experiment and figure it out for themselves.
- It sounds odd, but don't pet your dog during the exercise. Your touch will distract them from the exercise and is another type of reward!
- Try not to let your dog see the clicker. It is the sound you want them to be interested in, not the clicker itself.
- Be patient!!!!

For more information speak to one of our qualified nurses who will be happy to help with any questions or queries either at the surgery or by phone on

01924 362464.