

Charging the clicker or marker word

Step 1

Introduce the Behaviour

We use a clicker or marker word to "capture" the behaviour we want. Think of it like the shutter on a camera.

To start we need to condition our dogs to the sound of the clicker or a word. We pair the sound of the clicker with a primary reinforcer such as food.

Food is our reinforcer of choice for Scentwork, because we need to reward our dogs in the same location as the scent. It is also convenient and this allows for multiple repetitions in a short space of time.

If you prefer to use a word to capture a desired behaviour, it is exactly the same principle. Make sure the word you choose is clear and succinct, such as "Yes!"

Some more sensitive dogs prefer a marker word, as the clicker might sound a bit sharp for them.

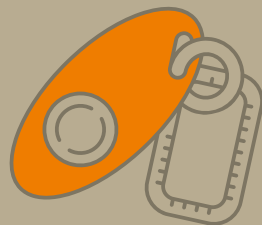
Step 2

Charging the clicker or marker word

Scatter several pieces of food on the ground.. approximately 1m square. Press the clicker, or say your word for every piece of food your dog eats. Repeat this several times.

Step 3

Proofing the Behaviour



With your clicker (if using one..) and food, throw one piece of food to the floor and when your dog looks back to you after eating the food, click, or say your marker word. Then throw down the next piece of food.

When you use the clicker, and your dog expects a treat, this means we have successfully paired the clicker with a primary reinforcer

top tip...

Practice marking and rewarding a behaviour..

Cue a behaviour your dog is already familiar with e.g. "sit". Press the clicker or use your marker word when your dog performs the behaviour. Reward with food immediately after clicking.