

What makes you **CLICK?**



An easy to follow **INTRODUCTION** to Clicker Training!

Learn the basics **PLUS** fun tricks that will not only impress, but help create a closer bond with your dog.

Tuning in to the Clicker

Sit

Loose Lead Walking

Bonus Trick: Sleepy

Basic Recall

Settle

Shut the Door

Take a Bow

Peek-a-boo


TrainingLines

Training • Exercise • Play

What's it all about?






Clicker training may seem complicated, but it is actually very simple, and once you know the ground rules, training becomes a conversation between you and your dog. They will look to you for direction (What do you want me to do?), confirmation (A-ha, I got it right!), and motivation (Mmm, a yummy treat!).

The clicker creates a distinct, consistent sound to mark your dog's successful behaviour at the exact moment it happens, and it is followed by a motivating reward. The sound helps your dog to understand precisely which action earned the reward, enabling them to learn new behaviours quickly, easily, and enthusiastically.

For clicker training to work, you must consistently deliver what the clicker promises - **a treat**. Your dog becomes comfortable with this concept and knows their expectations will always be met by you.

Clicker training treats should be small. Tiny enough to swallow quickly but big enough to get the taste. The smaller the treats, the keener your dog will be to earn more.

Clicker Rules:

-  Click only **ONCE**.
-  Click **EXACTLY** whilst your dog is doing something you'd like them to repeat - not just before or just after.
-  If you **click** (even by accident), you **MUST treat**. No exceptions.
-  Do not use the clicker like a remote control and point it at your dog. Hold it by your side or behind your back.
-  Keep the sessions short, keep them happy, and **ALWAYS** end on a high note so your dog will look forward to the next one.



Tuning in to the Clicker

Tuning your dog in to the clicker is an essential step, and doesn't take long. You are teaching him that when he hears a **click**, he can expect a **treat**. The stronger this connection is, the more effective the clicker will be.

You will need the clicker and some small, delicious treats. Press and release the clicker (you will hear a tick-tock sound) and give your dog a treat. **Click and treat** in this way 15-20 times, praise your dog, and then put the clicker and treats away. Repeat this three times a day for three days, and by then your dog should be tuned in.

You can test whether he recognises the sound by clicking when he is not expecting to hear it. If his head whips around and he comes to you for a treat (don't forget, you must always **treat** whenever you **click!**), then he is tuned in, and you can begin clicker training!



Top Tips:

You CAN teach an old dog new tricks! No matter what age your dog may be, it is never too late or too early to start clicker training.

Keep your practice sessions short and sweet. During an ad break is perfect.

Break the trick into steps; some dogs have difficulty learning an entire trick all at once.

Train your dog using games. It's easier to learn when you're both having a good time.



Do I have to use a clicker until the end of time? No, once the trick is learned, the clicker can be put away.



Sit: You need clicker and treats

Let's start with something simple.

There are two ways of teaching a basic sit.

-  **Luring:** To lure your dog into a sit when he is standing, use a treat to draw his nose up and back. As you pass the treat over his forehead, his rear end will naturally go down. Click at the moment his rear touches the ground, then let him have the treat.
-  **Capture:** To capture the sit, simply wait until your dog sits down naturally. Click at the instant his rear hits the ground and then give him a treat.



Introducing the 'Jackpot' treat

A 'jackpot' treat is a mega-reward given after a particularly exceptional effort. This needs to be something really special, like your dog's favourite treat of all time. It can be slightly bigger than the normal clicker treat and should be saved for those special moments when he has done really well or hit the jackpot!



Settle: You need clicker, treats and mat

Here, you teach your dog to go to their mat and lie down.

- 📱 Stand still, centred behind the mat, with your treats and clicker ready to go (in your hand, your thumb in position)
- 📱 When your dog just happens to put a paw on the mat (totally by chance), **click!**
- 📱 Toss the treat away from the mat (you want your dog to step off the mat so that they can step back on again shortly).
- 📱 When your dog eats the treat and wanders back to you, accidentally stepping back on the mat, **click and treat** again.
- 📱 Repeat each time. **Click**, toss the **treat**, and wait.

Soon, you'll be clicking and treating rapidly. Your dog might not know what is earning him the **click and treat**, but his paw will be on that mat a lot more often.

When your dog is getting a paw on the mat every single time, hold off clicking him until he gets TWO paws on the mat. You'll be surprised at how quickly this happens, so be ready; **click** the moment that second paw touches the mat. Toss the treat and wait again. As your dog does this consistently, wait for three and then all four paws on the mat.









But we want him laying down. When he consistently puts four paws on the mat, wait it out but always be ready. If you don't click, your dog will most likely move into a different position, so first you **click and treat** a sit, and then finally wait and only **click** for a down. Only when he is laying down regularly should you add the cue word, 'settle'.



Basic Recall: You need clicker and treats

For a reliable recall, you need a good foundation, so it's worth taking time to do this. Start indoors. With your clicker and a desired treat, do several one-or-two minute training sessions daily. Call your dog from a few feet away, and **click** if he takes even one step towards you. Do this in different rooms in your house. As he improves, wait for more steps before clicking, or for him to come right to you. Try calling him back and forth between two people like a game. **Click and treat** the good responses only, and ignore poor responses.

Now establish the following, one at a time:

-  Come from across the room.
-  Come from out of sight.
-  Come no matter who calls, to the person who called.
-  Come fast.
-  Come now.
-  Come even if he is busy.
-  Come (fast, now) even if he is asleep.
-  Come even if he is eating dinner. This one deserves a **JACKPOT** treat.



Now go outside to a fenced area and practice these same behaviours, one at a time. You will probably find that they don't work as well and you are back to square one, but that is OK. Only when each behaviour is well and truly reliable, do you up the ante and repeat them in a distracting and exciting new place. Reduce the distance to two or three feet when you start working around big distractions (other dogs and squirrels, for instance). Reinforce a good recall in the park, by **clicking and treating** and then letting your dog return to the distraction.



Loose Lead Walking: You need clicker and treats

When your dog takes you for a walk instead of the other way around, it isn't very enjoyable. It should be a pleasant experience for you both. Teaching your dog to walk nicely on a lead is one of the foundations of a good quality of life for both of you.

- 📱 Prepare in advance and make sure you have your clicker and some highly prized treats with you.
- 📱 Hold the lead and the clicker in one hand and hold the treats in the other hand. Using a treat pouch will really help.
- 📱 Start walking with your dog in a quiet environment – you can even start at home.
- 📱 Every time the lead is tight, stop dead. Wait a few seconds. If your dog turns around to look at you, **click** and let him come to you to get the **treat**. It is important that you deliver the treat where you are, and you don't walk towards your dog to give it to him.
- 📱 If your dog doesn't turn back to you, turn around and start walking in the other direction. He will follow you, and you can **click and treat** when he is by your side again.
- 📱 As long as the lead is loose keep walking and **click and treat** every time your dog is by your side and especially when the dog is looking at you.
- 📱 In the beginning, you will have to **click and treat** very generously, but gradually you will be able to increase the loose lead walking duration between treats.



- 📱 If your dog loses his concentration at any time and starts pulling again, stop dead and wait a few seconds.
- 📱 You can use 'environmental reinforcers' to teach this behaviour. Your dog wants so many things while he is outside, so if he wants to sniff a tree, let him do it as long as he walks nicely towards that tree. If he starts pulling, turn around and start over. Keep doing the exercise until your dog walks next to you all the way to the tree, and then let him sniff the tree.

Teaching a dog that is used to pulling to walk on a loose lead is not a quick fix. It will take time and patience, but with consistency and good quality treats, you will gradually start to see some improvement.

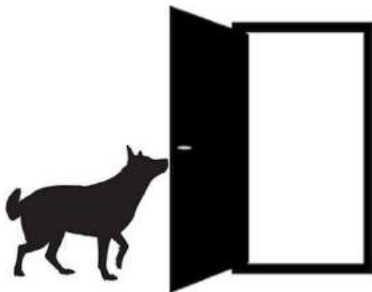
Bonus Trick - Sleepy: You need clicker, treats and patience

This trick is captured rather than taught. Every time you see your dog yawn, say the cue word 'sleepy', **click and treat**. If he yawns enough and hears those words, followed by a **click and treat** enough, he will eventually yawn whenever he hears those words "Are you 'sleepy'?"



Shut the Door: You need clicker, treats and sticky tape

- Stick a piece of tape, or a post-it note to a closed door at your dog's nose height. This is the 'target'.
- As soon as your dog makes a move to investigate, **click and treat**.
- Repeat this exercise with a **click and treat** until your dog is reliably touching the target with its nose.
- Now open the door just slightly and repeat the exercise, clicking and treating for every nose bump on the target.
- As your dog touches the target, the door will start to close. **Click and treat**, and heap praise on them.
- Continue by opening the door slightly wider. **Click and treat** only when your dog moves the door.
- When your dog reliably pushes the door, hold back your **click and treat** until the door shuts all the way.
- Gradually introduce the cue "shut the door" as they do the trick.
- Once your dog is responding to the cue, you can remove the target and use just the words, 'shut the door'.



Take a bow or downward dog: **You need clicker and treats**

You will need lots of patience for this one because your dog may think you are trying to get him to lie down instead of just stretch his front legs out and take a bow.

- 📱 Start with your dog standing up on all four feet.
- 📱 Use a treat to lower your dog. Hold a treat at the tip of your dog's nose, and slowly move it down, holding it close to your dog's body. In this way, you will use the treat to lure him down until his elbows are on the floor with his hindquarters remaining up.
- 📱 **Click and treat.** If your dog lies down completely, say nothing. Just bring him back to a standing position and start again.
- 📱 Repeat the process several times, gradually increasing the duration of the bow.
- 📱 Once your dog understands the action, you can add the cue word 'bow' when he is in position.
- 📱 Gradually add the cue word sooner during the movement until you are saying it just before your dog starts to move.
- 📱 Then, you should be able to use the cue 'bow' to get your dog to perform the trick.



Peek-a-boo: You need clicker and treats

- Stand with your legs astride and have your dog standing in front of you. Let your dog sniff the treats in your hand and then begin luring him to your right side.
- With the treat at his nose, encourage him to curve around your right leg so that he's behind you.
- Bending over, reach between your legs from front to back, and catch your dog's attention with the treat.
- Using the treat, lure your dog between your legs, stopping him once his head is in front of your legs, with a **click and treat**.
- Repeat the luring motion until your dog is reliably circling round and appearing between your legs. **Click and treat** each time.
- Now, as he comes through, raise the treat up slightly so that he sits. **Click and treat**.
- Repeat until he is reliably coming through your legs and sitting, **clicking and treating** each time. He should naturally look up at you for his treat.
- To fade the treat lure, start using your hand only without the treat. Your hand motion should be enough to encourage your dog to complete the manoeuvre, but you must still **click and treat** when he is in the correct sitting position between your legs.
- When this is reliable, start adding the cue 'Peek-a-boo' as he gets into the sitting position.
- Gradually say it earlier and earlier until you are saying it just before he moves.
- Your dog should now be able to perform the trick when he hears the cue 'Peek-a-boo'.



Although this Clicker Training kit is aimed at dogs, we cater for cats and horses too. In fact, at Training Lines, we love anything that enriches pets' lives, be that through training, exercise, or play!

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