



Lure and Reward Training



Lure and Reward is a great way to teach dogs all kinds of skills. It's easy, effective and enjoyable for dogs. In this handout I will use the example of teaching "Sit".

1) Get a tasty, smelly treat in your hand. Think of the lure as a magnet that will attract your dog's nose.

2) Show your dog the treat. Let them smell it, lick it, but not have it. Raise the treat above your dog's head so their nose goes up.

3) Usually as the nose goes up, the butt goes down. When your dog's butt touches the ground, click (or mark) and let them have the treat. Be quick!

- If your dog won't follow the lure, slow down your hand movement. It needs to stay on your dog's nose.

4) After only 3-5 repetitions of using the treat in your hand, you will need to "fade" the lure. This is so that your dog doesn't learn to only listen to you when they know you have a cookie in your hand!

5) Move your hand in the exact same way that you would if you had a treat. When the dog puts their butt down, click or mark and quickly get a treat in your hand and bring it to their mouth.

- If your dog gets up while you're reaching for your treat, lure them back into place before you allow them to eat the treat.

6) Now you're ready to add the word. First, say the cue "sit". Then, use your hand signal as before. The goal is to teach the dog that the word "sit" means "this thing where you put your butt down". You don't want to say the cue at the same time as you hand signal, or the dog won't learn what the word means.

- If your dog doesn't listen to your cue or follow the hand signal, try again in a less distracting space or move away from distractions. Don't repeat your cue many times or push your dog's butt down.

7) Repeat the above steps with down and stand. Remember to feed the treat in the position you want the dog to be in - for example, when you feed for lying down, place the treat on the ground between the dog's paws. It may take a bit of practice to learn to lure your dog into a stand from a sit, or into a down (small dogs can be trickier!) Just be patient, go slow, and don't add your word until your dog "gets" it!