

Kelly Krager

From: Aidan, Positive Petzine [editor@positivepetzine.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2007 12:05 AM
To: Kelly Krager
Subject: [positivepetzine] Click Ends Behavior, Click for Behavior, Feed for Position

Hi Kelly, a saying I was taught when learning how to clicker train was "the click ends the behavior".

This is no less true today than it was then.

When you click, that trial is over. The dog is free to stop performing that behavior which you clicked.

I actually prefer to say "the click ends the trial", because that is how I see it.

If the finer points of reinforcement don't interest you, that's all you need to know about it. You can win obedience trials, train police dogs, stop aggressive behavior, teach your dog to fold your laundry or whatever else you want him to do knowing just this.

There is also another saying, equally true, "click for behavior, feed for position". What this recognises is that whatever happens between antecedent (cue) and consequence (treat) is potentially reinforced. That includes any behavior which happens after the click.

So the click doesn't end ALL behavior. Nor does it exclude any other unclicked behavior from reinforcement. However, as anyone who as ever clicked and treated can tell you - you get more of what you click...

...and that is important because, after all, when we train we're simply trying to get more of a chosen behavior!

If you're really interested in analysing what happens during the training process, then you can squeeze a little more efficiency out of your sessions by "clicking for behavior, feeding for position".

If that confuses you, then forget about it. Just think "the click ends the behavior" or "the click ends the trial". If your dog stops what he is doing and comes to you, that's fine.

Are you getting more of the behavior he was doing at the time? Yes? Then the miracle of reinforcement has worked in your favor - which is exactly what you are looking for, is it not?

If the whole of this article confuses you, then follow this link to get your digital hands on The Positive Petzine Collection E-Book or E-Book + Physical Book-
<http://www.1shoppingcart.com/app/netcart.asp?MerchantID=104397&ProductID=3765649>

or alternatively,
<http://tinyurl.com/ytdqwc>

... which has dozens of plain english articles that discuss positive dog training and behavior solutions that work like crazy!

Until next time...

Regards,
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