

Wellington Canine Obedience Club

TRAINING TRICKS WITH KAREN SADLER

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TRICKS – WHAT ARE THEY?

Everything is a trick – a sit, heel, down, and a stand – all are tricks requiring your dog's focus and response to what you ask them.

Just like any other learning point for a dog, teach one trick until it is rock solid, then the next trick. Do not teach too many tricks at once.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO TRAIN A DOG?

The best thing for training a dog is...

The timing of the reward

To be clear, timing of the reward is everything – it is hugely important.

Remember these vital elements for effective training:

1. Before beginning any training, think “WHAT do I want?” and “HOW do I want to achieve this?” solidly getting one step at a time.
2. Use a marker IMMEDIATELY the dog provides the behaviour asked for – click or Yes!
3. Then reward – a marker word means “that’s what I did right, and there’s a treat coming!” So always treat after a marker word.
4. Do not overshadow the reward – ie: do not make it look like the dog will get the reward before they have earned it – so do not go for your reward pouch or pocket before the behaviour has been given by the dog. Marker comes first, then the reward, or the reward.
5. Use remote rewards if your dog is too dependant on the reward – ie: train away from the treats – put the treats on a chair about a meter or so away from training area, get each treat when the behaviour has been marked.
6. Dogs need to think “how do I get food?” – these methods will teach your dog to think about how to get food.
7. Remember – the dog doesn’t get the treat for free, it has to do the job first.
8. Make the reward

EXCITING

by using your high voice, making the dog chase you for the treat, say “good dog”, etc

9. Start by using your \$50 a day treats, then build up to \$2,000 pay days later at the end of the night, or for something spectacular
10. Use the same voice for tricks as you do for “close” or obedience – happy and high pitched.

EQUIPMENT and TRICKS

TARGETING

- Sliders from K Mart – for “targeting”:
Use the sliders as a target to send the dog there, to teach a dog to run from A to B, to get the target smaller and smaller, so it is just a dot on the floor.

Method:

1. Use a hand signal for away.
2. Take the dog to the target first
3. When the dog puts a paw on the target mark and reward immediately
4. After 10 in a row, give it a name “paw” when the paw hits the target, reward paws on target
5. Take a break for five minutes or so and get another 10 in a row.

- Sticks – a wooden spoon for “targeting” above the ground, for a chair jump or to leap onto a table, for example

Method:

1. Dog targets the scoop of the spoon with their nose or their paw
2. Put the spoon where you want the dog to target – say the table top you want the dog to jump onto
3. Use a word to ask for the action “hup” for example.
4. Mark and reward immediately when the dog achieves what you ask
5. Repeat ten times
6. If leaping is involved, be aware of slippery or hard surfaces the dog may land on. Prevent joint issues or injury by using rubber non slip matting from Bunnings.
7. Reward when paws on target

- Hats – from the \$2 shops – good for use with Paws to Music. Use your imagination to train in and around it – use targeting or the around command, to run around the hat, put their paws on the hat, put their head on the hat, retrieve the hat, and so on.

JUMPING THROUGH THE HOOP

- Hoop – from the warehouse – use to jump through, weave in and out, skip through the hoop, jump in and out when it is on the ground.

Method for jumping through:

1. Put down an anti-slip mat in a door way
2. Position the hoop low in a doorway so the dog can only jump through the hoop to get to the treat
3. Focus your dog and say “Jump” and throw the treat through the hoop.

JUMPING WITH A FOAM NOODLE

- Noodle – firm foam from the Warehouse. Use these to go around, jump over (straight or held in a U shape), skip through it or go under it.

HEAD IN BUCKET

- Bucket – ensure your bucket or container is not too deep; your dog needs to be able to reach the bottom of the bucket. Use the bucket to put their head in the bucket, head in the bucket and keep it

there until you mark the behaviour, spin around it, stand on the bucket, put things in the bucket (putting toys away for example).

Method for head in the bucket, or toys away:

1. *Drop treat in bucket*
2. *When the dog puts head in bucket mark immediately with clicker or Yes!*
3. *Do this 6 or 7 times*
4. *Then pretend to put the treat in the bucket. When the dog puts their head in the bucket, mark and reward by putting treat in bucket.*
5. *Do this 6 or 7 times.*
6. *Then wait.*
7. *See if dog will offer the trick to you.*
8. *When the dog puts their head in the bucket, click/mark and reward*
9. *If the dog does not do this, walk away and see if the dog offers the trick to you.*
10. *If not, start from step 4 again.*

WALK BACKWARDS

- Walk backwards:

Method:

1. *Put dog in a front sit about a meter from you, walking alongside a wall can assist*
2. *Walk towards the dog*
3. *Use the command "back"*
4. *When dog walks backwards, mark with clicker/Yes! And rewards*
5. *If dog does not walk in a straight line, STOP and start again*

PAWS ON FEET AND WALKING

- Paws on feet and walking:

Method:

1. *Have your dog learn "peepo" through your legs – see step 2*
2. *Put your dog in a sit. Stand in front of it, with your legs apart, induce the dog through your legs with a treat being brought through your legs*
3. *Have your feet turned in with pigeon toes*
4. *Lure your dog's head upwards with a treat*
5. *Have your feet in the way*
6. *Get one paw on a foot at a time, work up to getting both paws on each foot*
7. *Then start walking one step at a time with rewards for each step. Command "paws on feet"*

WEAVING THROUGH LEGS

- Weaving through the legs – walking forward:

Method:

1. *Always start in a stationary position*
2. *Lift legs like a goose step and point toes – looks more elegant than throwing legs out sideways*
3. *Lure dog through the lifted leg **and** around to the front before you down your leg.*
4. *Lure **then** reward.*

- Weaving through the legs – stationary figure 8:

Method:

1. Start with dog in heel sit
2. Treat in each hand
3. Lure dog through legs with lure in hand reaching from the back through to the front one side at a time
4. Use same hand as the leg you want to weave through
5. Use command "through" or "weave" or "eight"

WIPE THE FACE

Method:

1. Cellotape or leash over nose
2. When dog uses paw to wipe say "Yes", and reward
3. And give it a name "face" "hide your eyes" "are you embarrassed?"

CLOSE HEEL WORK

Method:

1. Be clear what you are asking your dog to do:

Close heelwork for obedience trials – use the word "Close"

Loose leash walking, for walking nearby – use the word "in", or "nice walking"

2. Dog on left in a stand, your legs apart.
3. Treats in left hand, hand held in the command for close. Hand on hip to start.
4. Left hand used for command for close and rewards or use remote treats.
5. Dog's head should be in the close position.
6. Say "close" and lean to the right – the dog should lean on your left leg.
7. Mark and reward. This is step one.
8. Step two, when you have the above solid, lean to left, and take a step to the left side, sliding your left leg. Dog should lean and follow your leg. Mark and reward.
9. Repeat taking one step at a time, marking and rewarding with each step.
10. Step three is to prepare as per step 1, and lean, but then turn to the right, pivoting on your right leg.

THE KEY: IN OBEDIENCE, YOUR LEFT SIDE OF YOUR BODY IS THE BUSINESS – THIS SIDE PROVIDES ALL THE INSTRUCTION TO YOUR DOG. YOU SHOULD BE MOST AWARE OF YOUR LEFT SIDE. THE RIGHT SIDE DOES JACK.

NOTE: Obedience is the hardest dog sport because it is all about the control by the owner and their relationship with their dog. Obedience *creates* the bond with your dog.

HOW TO REWARD – AND HOW TO NOT FORESHADOW A REWARD



DO NOT PAY FOR OTHER STUFF – DO NOT PAY A REWARD FOR THINGS YOU DO NOT WANT

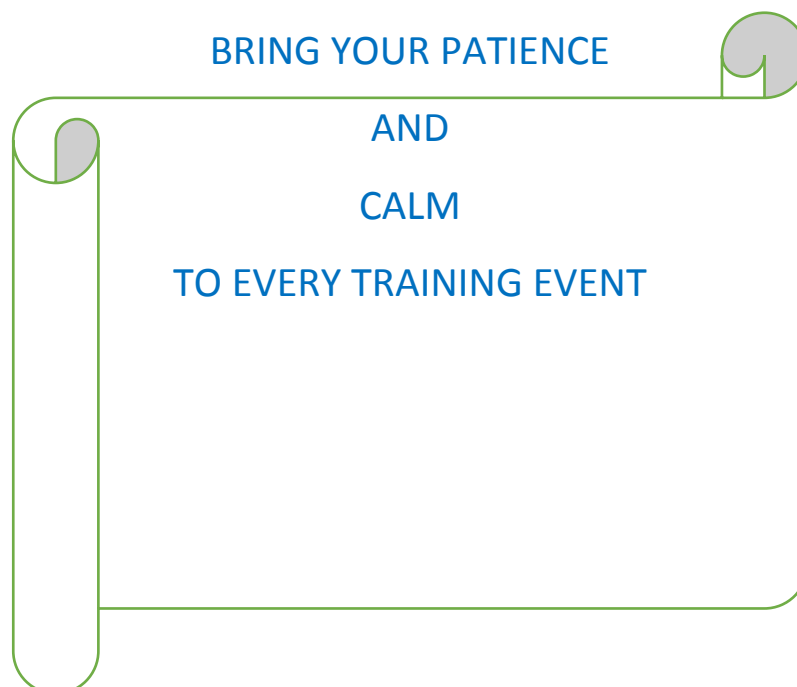
MAKE A REWARD FUN – THROW IT AWAY AND SAY WITH ENERGY “DID YOU GET IT?” SAY “QUICK, QUICK!” PRANCE ABOUT, IT IS ABOUT THE FUN OF FINDING AND CHASING AND COMING BACK – the theory is that the rabbit does not jump into the dog’s mouth, it runs away and treats should do this too!

Consider using the remote reward technique – instead of holding the treats, or having them in a pouch, place the rewards away from you and the dog on a chair, for example – ask for the behaviour, when you get it, mark it immediately with the marking word, then go to the chair to reward the dog

WHO IS IN CHARGE? YOU OR YOUR DOG? LET'S TALK DOG DISPLACEMENT ACTIVITY

When your dog does not focus on you, and gets busy looking around instead of listening, your dog knows their owner has given up. The dog is training you to give up. The answer is to keep calm and carry on – literally! Use your patience and calm to keep asking your dog to do the behaviour required. It may take some minutes, but remain focused, and eventually your dog will respond. When they do, immediately mark and reward with loads of praise.

Don't get wound up. That tells your dog you are out of control. Instead, move your dog back into position for the behaviour you are asking for.



A WORD ABOUT MARKER WORDS

TIMING OF THE MARKING WORD IS VITAL

USE THE MARKER WORD "YES!" IMMEDIATELY YOU GET THE BEHAVIOUR YOU WANT.

USE THE BOP-IT GAME or TENNIS BALL CATCH TO SHOW HOW QUICK THE MARKER WORD NEEDS TO BE.

MARKER WORDS MEANS "THAT YOU DID THAT RIGHT! THERE IS A TREAT COMING FOR YOU!"

TRAINING TIPS

To teach your dog to:

- Listen
- Be motivated

you need to think like a dog and your dog needs to earn their food.



Use the same voice for tricks as you do for close work or obedience - happy and high pitched.

Training can occur anywhere and at any time

For best training, train for 10 minutes at a time, and then Take a break – give your dog a chance to absorb their new learning.

Teach a FAST DOWN – as soon as the elbows hit the ground MARK and REWARD immediately.

Teach a DISTANCE DOWN – throw the treat away, and when the dog is at the treat, say “down!”

Have your dog ask permission for EVERYTHING –

- to come into the house
- to go through the door with you
- to have dinner

Remember to notice, mark and reward each time.

For a bouncy dog, do not tell them off – save the telling off for when the dog has done something stupid – instead, give the dog something to do.

Do not overshadow marker – the marker word comes first, **then** the reward, or the food becomes the marker.

Ideas for reward:

- treats
- playing with toys
- a game with toys; remember the rabbit does not jump into the dog’s mouth; it runs away – tease the dog, and then throw it away for the dog to chase.

FREESHAPING TRAINING –

Have your dog learn to offer behaviour to get a reward. For example: provide your dog with a cardboard box – when your dog does something with it, she is offering you something you want – mark and reward – this is FREESHAPING BEHAVIOUR – your dog has to offer some behaviour to you, you pick which behaviour you want to repeat, and mark and reward. You are looking for those highly sensitive moments to ask your dog to do something, mark and reward.

DOG TRAINERS SHOULD NOT OWN REACTIVE DOGS

Some general observations about some breeds –

- German Shepherd Dogs take two seconds to respond to a command
- Labradors work for food
- Rottweilers hate vets. They are very soft and do not want to be hurt. They will bark and bite when they think they might be hurt. But they will bite
- Staffies will do damage to a dog if they bite

Obedience training options include:

- CGC – Canine Good Citizen – foundation, bronze, silver and gold levels
- Obedience – Elementary, Beginners, Special beginners, Novice, etc
- CDX – Companion dog excellence

LOOK OUT FOR THE “BUGGER IT” POINT – DO NOT END WHEN YOUR DOG HAS HAD ENOUGH, TRY TO END BEFORE THIS, SO YOU END ON A HIGH NOTE – YOUR DOG AND YOU WILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT TRAINING SESSION.