



## Elementary Clicker Class

### Week 6 - Graduation

Congratulations on completing this six-week dog training course! Now, you know quite a bit about training. The good news is this is only the beginning of a wonderful relationship between you and your dog.

#### **Mastering learned behaviors**

You and your dog have been introduced to many new behaviors during this training course. Some of you may not be interested in working on all of the behaviors we've covered. At a minimum, pick a few of the most important behaviors (such as sit, come, stay and walk) and master these few behaviors. You will find your life is much easier with your dog once he will respond to these basic cues.

Now that your dog has learned to learn, it will become easier to teach new behaviors or tricks. It's fun to continue training your dog by reviewing exercises they already know to keep them proficient and also training new tricks and behaviors just for the fun of it. Understanding how to communicate and how to train your dog using positive reinforcement and a clicker, the possibilities are limitless!

#### **Take it on the Road**

Now that your dog is performing the behaviors in familiar areas, the next step is to "take it on the road" by working your dog in new situations and in different locations with greater distractions. Begin with the lowest level of distractions and "set up" training sessions, progressing to more intense distractions.

#### **Set your dog up for success**

Do not jump from a 1st degree distraction to a 10, or you will be setting your dog up for failure. Move slowly through greater and greater distractions while working your dog. Remember, you may have to "go back to kindergarten" and lower your criteria and make it easier in the beginning.

Don't worry though, as your dog will catch on much quicker now. The basic rule is, the greater the distraction, the better the treat! Work up to your front yard, the park, the beach, etc. Once you have reliable response to the cue, you can begin to eventually fade the clicker and short-term reward.



### **Incorporating different rewards**

I always continue to reinforce my dog although the rewards are now delayed, and it's certainly not always food – we can also choose from “life rewards,” praise and toys and games. I always dust off my clicker to teach a new trick or behavior, or if I'm taking my dog into a tough situation with lots of distractions (like the vet).

### **Really Reliable Recall**

Practice the Emergency Recall we went over in class.

### **Additional Training**

There are so many wonderful things to do with your dog these days. Consider our Refined Manners Class, our Intermediate Clicker Class, or our Heel to Heal class to further the training you've started in this Elementary Clicker Class!