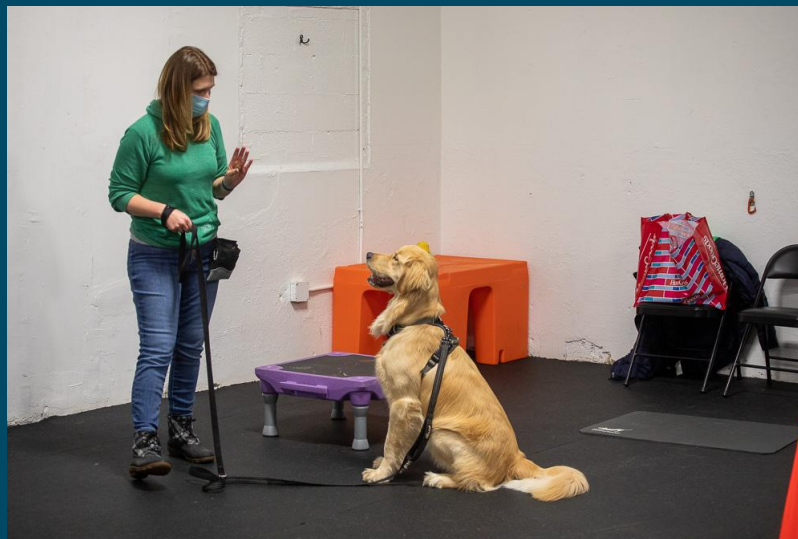


# Task Training for Dogs in AAI

Training foundations, tasks, and skills and how using them in practice helps maintain engagement, enthusiasm, and motivation over time



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K9 Turbo Training, Owner & Behavior Consultant



# Foundation Principles

# Understanding Motivation

- Out of animals control
- Fluxuates with environment
- Changes over time
- Requires maintenance to maintain



# Applications for Dogs Working with People

Human interaction enough is not alone to maintain our dogs motivation and prevent burn out over time

- Not all interactions are fun
- Most people are not great at reading or respecting canine body language
- We are always in competition with demotivators



# Principles of Operant Conditioning

## Behavior shaped through consequences

Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence	R
Person cues dog to "sit"	Dog puts bottom on ground	Dog receives treat	↑
Person calls dog excitedly	Dog jumps to greet person	Person pets dog	↑
Toddler reaches towards dog	Dog leans body into toddler	Toddler pulls dog's hair	↓
Person calls dog excitedly	Dog jumps to greet person	Handler corrects dog	↓



# Positive Reinforcement in Training

- Gets our dog excited about learning
- Provides clarity around what we want
- Increases motivation and enthusiasm
- Prevents unexpected or unwanted associations
- Prevents frustration when our dogs are not motivated to do what we would like them to do
- Is safe others to see and model

*It is up to the teacher to ensure learning and training is never painful, scary, or aversive for the learner*



# Using a Love for Training to Your Advantage

## Building confidence, enthusiasm, and love for training:

- Adds a major layer of reinforcement
- Creates a CER+ to training itself
- Reduces reliance on interactions themselves to maintain motivation
- Prevents feelings of disconnect or rejection when motivation itself for interactions are low
- Prevents demotivation due to stressful interactions



**Training Time!**



# Preparing for Training

- Get your treat pouch
- Outline your goals
- Choose your location
- Split your criteria
- Ensure your learner can get it right
- Preference test for reinforcement (and pay fairly!)
- Be prepared to walk away



# Event Markers

## Act as a signal to the dog that they got it right

- Marks the exact moment in time the desired behavior was performed
- Puts responsibility of communication onto the teacher
- Shifts focus from errors to correct responses

### Frequently used markers

Clickers

Whistles

Verbal markers

Thumbs up



# Teaching Chin/“Rest?”



# Chin



Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence
Dog hears prompt "Need a rest?"	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Approach person</li><li>2. Orient body to person</li><li>3. Put head in hand/body with mod pressure</li><li>4. Remain in position until hand is removed</li></ol>	Dog receives treat and praise

# Chin



**Step 1**  
Head into hand



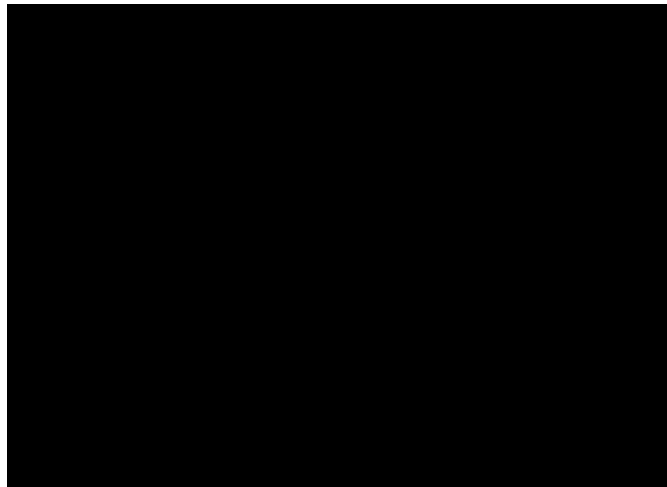
**Step 2**  
+ duration in hand

# Chin



## Step 3

Find, go to, rest head in hand



## Step 4

Generalize for hand location

# Chin



## Step 5

Transfer to new location

\*Identify trainer error: Feedback delay\*



## Step 6

Generalize for leg location



# Leave It



Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence
Dog hears or sees something drop to the ground	Look away from object without approaching	Dog receives higher value treat than what was ignored



# Leave It



**Step 1**  
Foundations



**Step 2**  
Adding difficulty



# Leave It



**Step 3**  
Generalize to other items  
(Trainer error on criteria increase)



**Step 3**  
Generalize to other items



# Leave It



## Step 3

Add difficulty and generalize



# Other Useful Behaviors to Teach

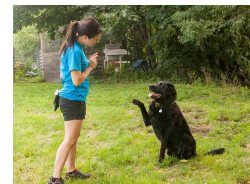


# A Choice-Based Greeting Protocol



Increase the quality of your interactions while also teaching others about dog safety.

- Make it a game
- Spread out
- Allow dog to approach
- One person at a time
- Teach “safe” locations
- Provide contact-free alternatives
- Give them choice and control



# “Go Say Hi”



# Hand Target



# Emergency Go to Location





# Take a Bow



# Behaviors for Contact-free Interactions

- Spin
- Wave hello
- Cover your eyes
- Retrieve an object
- Jump
- Speak
- Nose or paw target



# Improving Welfare and Preventing Burnout

# Watch for Signs of Fatigue

Be aware of signs your dog may be tiring out or requesting to decline

- Difficulty responding to known cues
- Rejecting food or attempts to interact
- Easily distracted
- Lack of engagement
- Attempts to exit
- Cut off signals



# Monitor for Signs of Stress

- Licking lips
- Yawning
- Scratching
- Shaking off
- Shedding
- Sweaty paw pads
- Excessive sniffing



# Manage Your Expectations



# Find a Qualified Trainer

## CAAB

Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists

## CCPDT

Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers

## IAABC

International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants



# And Have Fun With Your Dog!





# Thank You!



**K9TURBO**  
TRAINING

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