

LET'S TALK ABOUT POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT BASED TRAINING

The Crossover Trainer's Blog
Ines Gaschot

Once upon a time, we had a Facebook group where a great deal of helpful information was shared. The Group closed December 1, 2013, but I gathered most of the information that was shared into this PDF. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed their little pieces so that others could find understanding and knowledge.

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FILES

Recommended Books, eBooks & Articles

By [Lisa G White](#) on Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 9:38am

APDT Education Committee Book List

The Study of the Dog

Dog Breeds & Mixes

[The Complete Dog Book: Official Publication of the American Kennel Club](#)

(Current edition) Howell Book House. Dog Breeds in the United States are generally derived from the breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC). While there are some wonderful breeds that have not been recognized by the AKC and millions of fantastic mixed breeds, this tome is the standard for most of the dog breeds you will encounter.

[Atlas of Dog Breeds of the World](#), Chris Walkowicz & Bonnie Wilcox, TFH Publishing

A good reference for breeds that may not be recognized by the AKC.

[Mutts: America's Dogs](#) by Brian Kilcommons and Michael Capuzzo, Grand Central Publishing, 1996.

Discussion of common breed mixes and attributes to expect. With the rise of mixed breed dogs in the U.S. it's important for trainers to recognize and learn about mixed breeds as well as pure bred dogs.

Canine Language

Books

[On Talking Terms With Dogs: Calming Signals](#), Turid Rugaas, Dogwise Publishing, 2006

[Barking - The Sound of a Language](#), Turid Rugaas, Dogwise, 2008

These two books by Turid Rugaas will help the aspiring dog trainer better understand how their dog communicates both visually and audibly. Rugaas also addresses how primate/human communication styles can cause stress/conflict with dogs

[The Other End of the Leash – Why We Do What We Do Around Dogs](#), Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D, Ballantine Books, 2002

Dr. McConnell helps us to improve our understanding of our dogs by helping us to look at ourselves and how what we do with our dogs affects them. As trainers we need to not only focus on the dog but on the person holding the leash.

[Canine Body Language – A Photographic Guide](#), Brenda Aloff, Dogwise, 2005

[Canine Behavior - A Photo Illustrated Handbook](#), Barbara Handelman, Woof and Word Press, 2008

Dogs are superb visual communicators. The photos collected in Canine Behavior provide clear examples of dog communication in action.

[Off-Leash Dog Play](#), Susan Briggs & Robin Bennett

A comprehensive guide for the pet professional working with dogs in interactive situations such as daycares, playgroups, dog parks and even multi-dog households. In addition to covering leadership, group control and body language, the book offers insight into the dogs' scent, vocal and visual communication.

Video and Audio

The best way to learn to understand how dogs communicate visually is by watching them.. Watching dogs in the real world is great, but so much of what a dog does is very subtle, video or stop-action-photography will often be the best way to really see what you are seeing.

[Calming Signals](#), Turid Rugaas

[What is My Dog Saying?](#) Carol Byrnes

Canine Mind and Emotions

Books

The Culture Clash, Jean Donaldson, James & Kenneth Publishers, 2005

The book that has shaped modern thinking about canine behavior and the relationship between dogs and humans, Donaldson was also one of the first canine professionals to question the dominance construct and by doing so helped move our profession forward.

For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend, Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D., Ballantine Books, 2005, 2006

For centuries science and the Church insisted that animals have no emotions, which resulted in animal management and training strategies that today we would consider inhumane. Scientist and dog trainer, Dr. Patricia McConnell addresses our dogs emotions head on in this book and demonstrates that the commonality between our emotions is one of the reasons for the great bond between people and dogs. Since most serious behavior problems have an emotional basis, this book is essential reading.

Bones Would Rain from the Sky, by Suzanne Clothier, Grand Central Publishing, 2005

A beautifully written exploration of the ways in which humans can establish a better rapport with their dogs, offering new insights into behavioral problems, improved communication, and mutual respect and trust.

Dog Behaviour, Evolution and Cognition, by Adam Miklosi, Oxford University Press, 2009

A "textbook" and summary of recent research. Relevant information for dog trainers about the cognitive abilities of dogs.

Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell and Know by Alexandra Horowitz, Scribner Book Company, 2009

An overview of the many facets of dogs' physical, emotion, and mental lives, and their niche in a human world.

Canine Evolution/Domestication/Development Books

Dogs: A new Understanding of Canine Origin, Behavior and Evolution, Raymond and Lorna Coppinger, University of Chicago Press, 2001

Understanding how the dog evolved and has changed from the wolf is essential to understanding the dog. The Coppinger's have written an extremely readable and thought provoking book on how man and dog evolved together.

Genetics & the Social Behavior of the Dog, John Paul Scott & John L. Fuller, University of Chicago Press, 1965

The classic study of dog behavior, based on twenty years of research at the Jackson Laboratory. This pioneering research on dog behavioral genetics is arguably the single most important and comprehensive reference work on the behavior of dogs, and is critical reading for any serious student of training and behavior.

Video and Audio

Dogs and More Dogs - The True Story of Man's Best Friend, PBS/Nova, 2004

This video from Nova discusses how the domestic dog evolved and includes an interview with Dr. Raymond Coppinger.

Articles

The dominance construct has been a foundation of dog training for many years even though its validity is now in question. These articles summarize the current thinking on dominance in wolves and explain why it is a less than ideal model for living with a dog.

Mech L.D. 1999. Alpha Status, Dominance, and Division of Labor in Wolf Packs. Canadian Journal of Zoology.

Mech L.D. 2008. Whatever happened to the term alpha wolf? International Wolf.

Canine Health and Nutrition

Books

UCD Book of Dogs, Medical Reference, Mordecai Siegal, Harper Collins, 1995

While most dog training professionals are not veterinarians it is essential to have a basic understanding of common canine health issues. The UCD Book of Dogs provides a traditional approach to canine health and is an excellent reference guide.

Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats (3rd edition), Richard H. Pitcairn, DVM, PHD, Rodale Press, 2005

Dr. Pitcairn's book provides an excellent holistic overview. With a growing number of dog owners opting for a more natural approach, an understanding of both is essential.

Stress in Dogs, Martina Scholz and Clarissa von Reinhardt, Dogwise Publishing, 2007

Stress affects one's ability to learn and is a common cause of behavioral and emotional issues in people and animals. Stress in Dogs provides a basic overview of the physiology of stress, its signs, negative impacts, and how to mediate it.

Unlocking the Canine Ancestral Diet, Steve Brown, Dogwise, 2009

Nutrition is the core of good health and a healthy diet makes learning easier. Steve Brown's book addresses what a canine would eat if left to their own devices

Natural Nutrition for Dogs and Cats - The Ultimate Diet, Kymythy Schultze, Hay House, 1998

An easy-to-understand guide for those who want to prepare their dog's food without relying on commercial dog foods.

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The Laws of Learning: How Dogs Learn

Books

Don't Shoot the Dog - The New Art of Teaching and Training (2nd edition), Karen Pryor, Bantam Books, 1999

Originally written and sold in the "Self-Help" category, this book explains, using rewards in changing human as well as animal behavior.

The following two books clearly explain the various aspects of learning theory. Both are easy-to-read explanations of the laws of learning with examples specific to dogs and dog training:

How Dogs Learn, Mary Burch & Jon Bailey, Howell Book House, 1999

Excel-erated Learning, Pam Reid, James & Kenneth Publishing, 1996.

Handbook of Dog Behavior and Training. Volume One: Adaptation and Learning, by Steven R. Lindsay, Iowa State University Press, 2000

A text for students who want more, the first of 3 volumes of comprehensive information regarding behavior and training of dogs. This is probably the most comprehensive information collected into one source.

Articles

For many years dog training was based on the dominance construct and the use of punishment and corrections. We now know that there are better ways to train our dogs and as a result the Association of Pet Dog Trainers have published the following positions on dominance and punishment in training. Every dog trainer needs to be familiar with these documents as they can be a valuable tool to use with clients and referrers who are unaware of this significant change in thinking.

APDT Position Statement on Dominance and Dog Training, Association of Pet Dog Trainers 2009.

Dominance Myths and Dog Training Realities, Association of Pet Dog Trainers 2009.

The following research papers discuss different training methods and their affect on training outcomes. They provide excellent supporting arguments for the APDT position papers.

Dog training methods—their use, effectiveness and interaction with behaviour and welfare, Hiby, E.F., Rooney, N.J., Bradshaw, J.W.S., 2004 Anim. Welfare 13, 63–69.

Dominance in domestic dogs - useful construct or bad habit? Bradshaw J.W.S., Blackwell E.J., Casey R.A. 2009. Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, May/June 2009, pp 135-144.

Survey of the use and outcome of confrontational and non-confrontational training methods in client-owned dogs showing undesired behaviors, Herron M.E., Shofer F.S., Reisner I.R. 2009.. Applied Animal Behavior Science, 117, pp. 47-54.

The relationship between training methods and the occurrence of behavior problems, as reported by owners, in a population of domestic dogs, Blackwell, Emily J., Twells, Caroline Anne, Seawright, Rachel A. Casey. 2008.

Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, September/October 2008, pp 207-217.

When to start socializing a puppy is still a topic of discussion among many. The following position statement from the AVSAB outlines all of the sound reasons for early puppy socialization.

AVSAB Position Statement on Puppy Socialization, American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior 2009.

Video and Audio

The Fundamentals of Animal Training by Bob Bailey (4 DVDs)

These four DVD's provide a sound introduction to animal training from the best there is – Bob Bailey.

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Training Methods

Books

While the following represent the “nitty gritty” of dog training and the place where most aspiring trainers will start, it is essential to also be familiar with the other references included on this list to be the best trainer you can be.

The Power of Positive Dog Training, Pat Miller, Howell Book House, 2001

Written for the pet owner, this book sets out a 6 week training program using positive reinforcement.

The Thinking Dog: Crossover to Clicker Training, Gail T. Fisher, Dogwise, 2009

Regardless of your training background (or lack of it), this book presents an overview of all training methodologies. Useful for clicker trainers and non-clicker trainers, it provides a deeper understanding of operant conditioning and how animals learn, essential to refining one’s training skills.

How to Behave So Your Dog Behaves, Sophia Yin, TFH, 2004

A positive approach to training and modifying a dog’s behavior through both understanding the dog’s perspective, and changing our own behavior.

The Dog Whisperer: A Compassionate, Nonviolent Approach to Dog Training - Paul Owens and Norma Eckroate, Adams Media, 2007

This is the original “dog whisperer” ... and he really whispers. A good, basic, introduction to dog training based upon rewarding "successive approximations" of correct behavior.

Video and Audio

Really Reliable Recalls, Leslie Nelson

Leslie Nelson’s method of teaching a reliable recall has been helping people with their dogs for years. Why reinvent the wheel when you have something this good.

Crate Games for Motivation and Control, Susan Garrett

Sirius Puppy Training

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How People Learn and Training Methods

New dog trainers tend to want to emphasize learning how to train dogs. The fact is that most dog trainers spend more time teaching people how to train dogs than actually training dogs making this category essential for dog trainers to study.

Books

Coaching People to Train Their Dogs, Terry Ryan, Legacy Canine Behavior and Training, 2008

Terry Ryan’s book provides a comprehensive overview of how to best teach your real clients – the people who take care of the dogs.

Teaching Clicker Class: An Instructors Guide to Using Reinforcement in Dog Training, 2nd Edition, Deborah Jones, PhD., Deborah Jones, 1999

Teaching Clicker Class provides the aspiring trainer with a complete curriculum for a basic obedience class using clicker training.

Kids and Dogs: A Professionals' Guide to Helping Families, Colleen Pelar, C&R Publishing, 2009

Living with Kids and Dogs...Without Losing Your Mind: A Parent’s Guide to Controlling the Chaos, Colleen Pelar, C&R Publishing, 2005

Many of your clients will have children and you will be asked how to deal with child/dog issues. These two books by Colleen Pelar will help you navigate the family counseling minefield, especially if you have no child raising experience yourself.

The 4-Dimensional Manager, Julie Straw, Berrett Koehler, 2002

Just as people learn in different ways, they also communicate differently. The 4-Dimensional Manager outlines the DISC system which is a valuable tool for improving communications with clients, co-workers, employees and family.

What Shamu Taught Me about Life, Love and Marriage, Amy Sutherland, Random House, 2008

Operant conditioning applies to people just as well as it applies to training our dogs. Amy Sutherland spent time with animal trainers and translated what she learned so that she could use the same basic principles to train the people around her. This same approach can help you help your clients to be the best trainers they can be. A different perspective with ideas for motivating your students.

Presentationzen – Garr Reynolds, New Riders, 2008

Part of teaching others, especially in large groups, often involves making some sort of slide or PowerPoint presentation. Unfortunately if you model your presentation after the typical PowerPoint you may be setting yourself up for failure. Presentationzen will show you how to assemble a slideshow that will really reach your listeners. This book should be mandatory reading for anyone who ever gives a presentation.

Articles

VAK Learning Styles People learn in different ways; by reading, by watching, by listening, and some by doing. To successfully meet the needs of all of your clients you need to be able to teach in all of these different ways. The website below will help you determine your personal learning style and will educate you on how people learn.

Video and Audio

APDT 2006 - Teaching to Your Students' Learning Style – Don Hanson

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Business Development & Professionalism

Running a business can be an overwhelming experience for someone who doesn't have a business degree. From funding your new venture, to licensing, insurance, marketing and so much more, plus information on being an ethical professional, representing the dog training community.

Books

How to Run a Dog Business (Putting Your Career Where Your Heart Is), Veronica Boutelle, Dogwise 2008.

Many trainers offer other services, including doggy daycare, to make the most use out of their space.

Administrative concerns, personnel matters, facility layout, cleanliness, health and safety are just a few of the chapters that will help a new business owner get started.

All About Dog Daycare...a Blueprint for Success, Robin K Bennett C&R Publishing 2005

Well written, easily readable, and chock full of common sense, organized business plans, and resources. Good general information for anyone who runs a facility or business including such topics as Administration Concerns and Personnel Matters, Cleanliness Health and Safety.

Minding Your Dog Business: A practical guide to business success for dog professionals, Veronica Boutelle & Rickie Jorgensen.

In straightforward language, sprinkled throughout with humor, Veronica and Rikke show you how to make choices that are right for you in an ever more competitive market A truly great resource for dog pros.

So You Want to be a Dog Trainer, Second Edition, Nicole Wilde.

Summary: Step-by-step advice from a professional, for any aspiring dog trainer! Nicole Wilde is widely recognized for her expertise in what it takes to run a successful dog training business. New edition has expanded resources and product information and updated marketing advice.

The Ethical Dog Trainer, Jim Barry, Dogwise, 2008.

Ethics are part of any and all professions. By using real-world examples author Jim Barry will help you to make sure you meet the ethical standards of your profession.

Principled Centered Leadership, Stephen R. Covey, Free Press.

A clear, definitive approach to understanding and developing a principle-centered core to guide us in both our professional and our personal lives.

Video and Audio

dogTEC dogPRO Business Workshop DVD

Learn effective, non-stressful approaches to marketing and sales, and how to identify and side-step the common business and sales mistakes that keep dog pros from succeeding. Veronica makes the subject of business accessible and fun.

CD Rom

Dog Trainers Business Kit, CD ROM, Nicole Wilde.

Summary: This easy-to-use CD-ROM was created by Nicole Wilde, CDPT. It contains handy forms, contracts, client handouts, and more. Get organized, maintain professionalism, and free up your time so you can get out there and do what you do best-help dogs and their people.

The following will assist you with marketing tools and fundamentals to get your name out there and drive traffic to your business.

The Marketing Toolkit from dogTEC

Pre-made contracts to protect you and your business, diagnostic flowcharts to help assess behavior cases and much more.

The Dog Pro CD for Trainers from dogTEC

CCPDT-KA Recommended List

REFERENCES

The following list of references may be of some help in preparing for the examination. This list does not attempt to include all acceptable references nor is it suggested that the Certification Examination for Professional Dog Trainers –Knowledge Assessed is necessarily based on these references.

Instruction Skills

- Alexander, Melissa C. (2003). Click for Joy.
Dunbar, Ian. (2003). Doctor Dunbar's Good Little Dog Book.
Killian, Jane. (2007). When Pigs Fly! Training success with impossible dogs.
Martin, Kenneth & Martin, Debbie. (2011). Puppy Start Right: Foundation Training for the Companion Dog.
Orr, Joan, McKeon, Theresa & Fogel, Victoria. (2012). TAGTeach Basic Principles Articles Series.
Ryan, Terry. (2008). Coaching People to Train Their Dogs.
Sdao, Kathy. (2012). What Not to Err: Training Mistakes that Create Headaches for Dogs.
Wilde, Nicole. (2003). It's not the dogs, it's the people!
Yin, Sophia. (2011). Perfect Puppy in 7 Days: How to Start Your Puppy Off Right.

Animal Husbandry

- Eldridge, Debra, Carlson, Lisa, Carlson, Delbert, Giffin, James, Adelman Beth. (2007). Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook (4th Ed)

Ethology

- Bradshaw, John. (2011). Dog Sense: How the New Science of Dog Behavior Can Make You a Better Friend to Your Pet.
Coppinger, Raymond & Lorna. (2001). Dog's: A Startling New Understanding of Canine Origin, Behavior & Evolution.
Hetts, Suzanne, Estep, Daniel Q., & Grant, David. (2000). Canine Behavior Series: Body Postures & Evaluating Behavior Health.
Hetts, Suzanne & Estep, Daniel. (2005). Fundamentals of Canine Behavior. DVD.
Jensen, P. (Ed.). (2010). The Behavioral Biology of Dogs
Kalnajs, Sarah. (2007). The Language of Dogs. Understanding Canine Body Language and Other Communications. DVD.
McConnell, Patricia B. (2003). The Other End of the Leash; Why We Do What We Do Around Dogs.

Learning Theory

- Bailey, Bob. (2006). The Fundamentals of Animal Training. DVD.
Burch, Mary & Bailey, Jon. (1999). How Dogs Learn.
Donaldson, Jean. (1996). The Culture Clash: A Revolutionary New Way to Understanding the Relationship Between Humans and Domestic Dogs.
Hetts, Suzanne & Estep, Daniel. (2007). Counter-Conditioning and Desensitization: Using Techniques Effectively to Modify Behavior. DVD.
Miller, Pat. (2001). The Power of Positive Dog Training.
Pryor, Karen. (1999). Don't Shoot the Dog!: The New Art of Teaching and Training.
Reid, Pamela J. (1996). Excel-Erated Learning: Explaining in Plain English How Dogs Learn and How Best to Teach Them.
Sdao, Kathy. (2009). Get Smart About Training. DVD

Equipment

Animal Behavior Resources Institute.

www.abrionline.org

Ganley, Dee. Bond, Christina & Theriault, Debra (Eds.). (2005). Changing People, Changing Dogs: Positive Solutions for Difficult Dogs.

Tucker, Maggie Tai. (2001).

Professional Standards for Dog Trainers: Effective, Humane Principles.

Delta Society

Business Practices and Ethics

Barry, Jim. (2008).

The Ethical Dog Trainer: A Practical Guide for Canine Professionals.

Dogwise Publishing.

Tucker, Maggie Tai. (2001).

Professional Standards for Dog Trainers: Effective, Humane Principles.

Delta Society.

Additional Animal Behavior & Training Resources

Lindsay, Steven R. (2000).

Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training. Vol. 1: Adaptation and Learning.

IowaState University Press.

Lindsay, Steven R. (2000).

Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training. Vol.2: Etiology and Assessment of Behavior Problems.

Iowa State University Press.

Lindsay, Steven R. (2000).

Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training. Vol.3: Procedures and Protocols.

Blackwell Publishing.

Manning, Aubrey & Dawkins, Marian Stamp. (2012).

An Introduction to Animal Behavior.

Cambridge University Press

Recommended Websites

By [Ines Gaschot](#) on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 4:24pm

Websites:

- clickertraining.com
- clickersolutions.com
- <http://www.clickersolutions.com/training/index.html>
- <http://www.canisclickertraining.com/>
- <http://www.yourpitbullandyou.com/>

Blogs:

- The Crossover Trainer - <http://www.thecrossovertrainer.com/> (Resources page: <http://www.thecrossovertrainer.com/resources-for-dog-trainers/>)
- Eileen and Dogs - <http://eileenanddogs.com/>
- Success Just Clicks - <http://www.successjustclicks.com/blog/>
- Reactive Champion - <http://reactivechampion.blogspot.com/>

Online Training Classes/Classrooms

- Leash Aggression Classroom - <http://www.leashaggressionclassroom.com>
- Fenzi Dog Sports Academy - <http://fenzidogsportsacademy.com/>

Links to OC Definitions, etc

By [Margery Cavins](#) on Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 10:19pm

- A Beginner's Guide to Operant Conditioning <http://www.clickersolutions.com/articles/2001/ocguide.htm>
- Defining Common Ground <http://www.clickersolutions.com/articles/2002c/commonground.htm>
- Kindness First <http://www.clickersolutions.com/articles/2002c/kindness.htm>
- How You Get Behavior Really Does Matter <http://www.clickersolutions.com/articles/2004/gettingbehavior.htm>
- Why I Clicker Train <http://www.clickersolutions.com/articles/2001/whytrain.htm>
- A Clicker Training Primer <http://www.clickersolutions.com/articles/2001/primer.htm>
- Glossary of Clicker Training Terms <http://www.clickersolutions.com/articles/2001/glossary.htm>
- Definitions from Sid's Blog <http://avianambassadors.com/BirdTraining/training-and-behavior-glossary/>

Training for the Trainer &/ Trainer to be

By [Lisa G White](#) on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 6:12pm

Recommended Training Academies / Schools both Online and Physical Attendance

Karen Pryor Academy - <https://www.karenpryoracademy.com>

Jean Donaldson's Online Academy - <http://www.academyfordogtrainers.com>

Renea Dahms of Pawsitively Unleashed - <http://pawsitivelyunleashed.com/Events.html>

Dr. Susan Friedman's Online Professionals Course on Applied Behavior Analysis - <http://behaviorworks.org/>

[Patricia Barlow-Irick](#)

<https://sites.google.com/a/how2traina.com/how-2-train-a/home/course-materials>

Dr. Risë VanFleet. Online courses in *Canine Communication* and *Essentials of Behavior & Training*. Created with practitioners of Animal Assisted Play Therapy (mental health) in mind, but feedback from many canine professionals has been very positive (and approved for IAABC and CCPDT). Also live courses and certification program in Animal Assisted Play Therapy (mental health professionals as well as canine and equine support professionals). Live courses: www.playfulpooch.org Online courses: http://risevanfleet.com/aapt/?page_id=114

Operant Conditioning Quadrants Practice Worksheet

By Ines Gaschot

Determine what is occurring in each scenario:

Positive Reinforcement (R+) | Negative Reinforcement (R-) | Positive Punishment (P+) | Negative Punishment (P-)

1) You have a dog that counter surfs constantly so you have decided to train a default "leave it." Each time the dog tries to get the food, you cover it with your hand. When he leaves it alone, you drop a treat on the ground.

This is primarily:

R+ R-

P+ P-

2) A dog is wandering around in a field. The field has a few fire ant hills and the dog decided to investigate one. An ant gets on to the dog's nose and delivers a painful bite. The dog will avoid these ant hills in the future. This

is primarily:

R+ R-

P+ P-

3) You are trying to teach a dog loose leash walking (i.e. no pulling). The dog is at the end of the leash pulling and you are pulsing the leash until he releases pressure. When he releases pressure on the leash, the pulsing stops. This is primarily:

R+ R-

P+ P-

4) You're training your dog to heel on your left side. You start to reward whenever your dog is on your left. Your dog learns to stay on your left because good things happen there. This is primarily:

R+ R-

P+ P-

Answers:

1) This is primarily P-. When you cover the food up with your hand you are removing something so that the dog is less likely to repeat that behavior in the future. Dropping treats on the ground for leaving the food on the counter alone is R+.

2) This is primarily P+. Remember that learning is constantly occurring, not just when the human is training the dog. The consequence was painful so the dog is not likely to do that behavior again in the future.

3) This is primarily R-. You are removing an uncomfortable stimulus (pulsing) when the behavior occurs so that the behavior (less pressure on leash) is less likely in the future.

4) This is primarily R+. Your dog receives something after a certain behavior occurs which increases the frequency of that behavior in the future.

Definition of Dog Training Terms

By [Ines Gaschot](#) on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 7:41pm

Creating better discussions through making clear definitions - As you know, people have/create many different definitions for each term (in dog training). In order to help discussions proceed with the least confusion possible apply the terms as the definitions are listed below. :)

- **Operant Conditioning (OC)**** -a theory of learning that generally follows "Thorndyke's Law of Effect." This law states that behaviors that are reinforced will become more likely to occur, and behaviors that are not reinforced will become less likely to occur. (These behaviors are deliberately performed in order to receive or avoid a consequence.)
- **Classical Conditioning (CC)*** - Discovered by Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov, classical conditioning is a learning process that occurs through associations between an environmental stimulus and a naturally occurring stimulus. It's important to note that classical conditioning involves placing a neutral signal before a naturally occurring reflex. (These become reflexes when the cue is sensed.)
- **Force-Free Training** - Training that avoids or tries to avoid creating anxiety in the dog.
- **Primary reinforcers**** - something an animal instinctively and inherently finds rewarding. No learning is necessary for these reinforcers to increase the likelihood of a behavior. In dogs, primary reinforcers include food, water, procreation, and sometimes certain predatory behaviors.
- **Conditioned reinforcers**** - things that are paired with a primary reinforcer to the point where they have the same meaning as the primary reinforcer. This is done through a process known as classical or respondent conditioning.
- **Positive Reinforcement** - The addition of something after a certain behavior occurs that will increase the likelihood of that behavior occurring more often in the future.
- **Positive Punishment** - The addition of something after a certain behavior occurs that will decrease the likelihood of that behavior occurring more often in the future.
- **Negative Reinforcement** - The removal of something after a certain behavior occurs that will increase the likelihood of that behavior occurring more often in the future.
- **Negative Punishment** - The removal of something after a certain behavior occurs that will decrease the likelihood of that behavior occurring more often in the future.

* - Provided by: <http://psychology.about.com/od/behavioralpsychology/a/classcond.htm>

** - Provided by: <http://www.clickersolutions.com/articles/2001/ocguide.htm>

Counter Surfing Solutions

By [Lisa G White](#) on Friday, July 5, 2013 at 2:56pm

1) Variations of Susan Garret's It's Yer Choice Game. Do the basic game <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipT5k1gaXhc>. Start moving the game to various surfaces using all kinds of different foods, especially those a dog will find on a counter. Eventually you'll move the game to the kitchen and slowly go to higher and higher surfaces until your dog understands that all food, no matter where, is only gotten via your hand. - Jaime Robinson

2) The Away Game. I use this in Snake Avoidance Class and Household Manners class. Put your dog on two leashes, one longer than the other. Walk toward the space or object that you want your dog to learn to avoid. When you are 3 feet away, say "away", drop the short leash and run the other way calling your dog. The second leash is a safety net for if your dog goes for the object or space. Do this game until you can "away" from several objects and a couple of spaces. It works great if you can get a smell attached to things and spaces you don't want your dog interacting with. In Snake Avoidance class of course we use snake smell. In household manners I use basil or turmeric. - Jaime Robinson

3) Make the floor more valuable than the counter! Dogs repeat behaviors that are most rewarding. Drop treats on the floor from time to time and make sure the counter has nothing of value. After a little bit, the dog will forget about the counter because it will not be reinforcing to check it. - Ines Gaschot

4) Default Leave It: Practice by putting food on the edge of the counter, block access to the food with your hand. When the dog leaves the food alone, click and drop a treat on the ground. Repeat until the dog doesn't go for the food on the counter anymore. - Ines Gaschot

DEAF & BLIND DOGS INFO & RESOURCES

By [Lisa G White](#) on Monday, July 1, 2013 at 10:28am
<http://www.deafdogs.org/>

http://raisingcanine.com/thanks/jules-training_deaf_blind_dogs/

Recommended Videos

By [Ines Gaschot](#) on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 4:25pm

Emily Larlham Dogmantics <http://dogmantics.com/free-video-list/>

Emily Larlham Kikopup Channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/kikopup/videos>

Donna Hill <http://www.dogvideoindex.blogspot.com>

The Crossover Trainer - <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCrossoverTrainer>

Photos

TALK TO ME

ABOUT POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT TRAINING



Loker

My reactive dog, Loker, only increased his reaction when I corrected him with a prong collar. I found positive reinforcement and clicker training, and we've never looked back! We can now go on walks with confidence and skills in our pockets! - Ines Gaschot



Nadia - previously feral adult dog

I began positive training since I grew up running around out in woods and fields with dogs all day, so when I was introduced to actual training I didn't grasp the point of force, and pain-based training methods. My dogs always did fine with happy, loving training and relationship-based work, so I didn't see a need to hurt them to work with them! When I was introduced to the positive movement, I felt right at home! - Emily Rose Godlevsky



Napoleon

My dog became my hero when he saved my life when I was being assaulted. I only felt it was fair to return the kindness he showed me by changing my ways of training to more positive methods. Our relationship blossomed even more than I thought possible and I never looked back! - Karen Deeds



Left: Roxie or "Roxie Hart, CGC, RE", Middle: Paisley or "Crazy Paisy", Right: Shiraz, CGC, RE, CD" She's the reason I chose clicker training. She's now 10.

I was taking an Open level obedience class where people were pinching and shoving dumbbells into dogs mouths. I quit the class and clicker trained my dogs retrieve in about 2 weeks from instructions I found on the internet. The rest of my class was still pinching away and I had moved onto the broad jump. - Kat Camplin



Maui

I love the way she lights up when we train, and I love the results I get. We have competed and titled in obedience, rally-o, and tricks. I never knew training could be so fun! - Sarah Fulcher

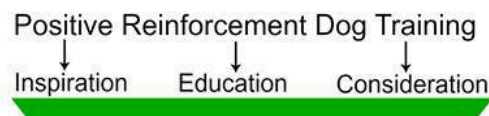
Read more: <http://www.thecrossovertrainer.com/talk-to-me-project>



Educate With Kindness

As teachers, we want to **inspire** and **inform** and **educate**. Our ability to **influence**, however, goes far beyond our time spent in class. Every time we interact with someone, we have the opportunity to **make a difference**. It's a heady experience to share the miracle of clicker training. Sometimes, however, it's so easy to get caught up in the importance of the message that we forget to **consider the needs of the individual** we're talking to.

A **kind** word can coax someone forward. A **harsh** or **judgmental** one—no matter how "right"—can push the person backwards. --- Melissa Alexander



I Am A Positive Reinforcement Based Trainer

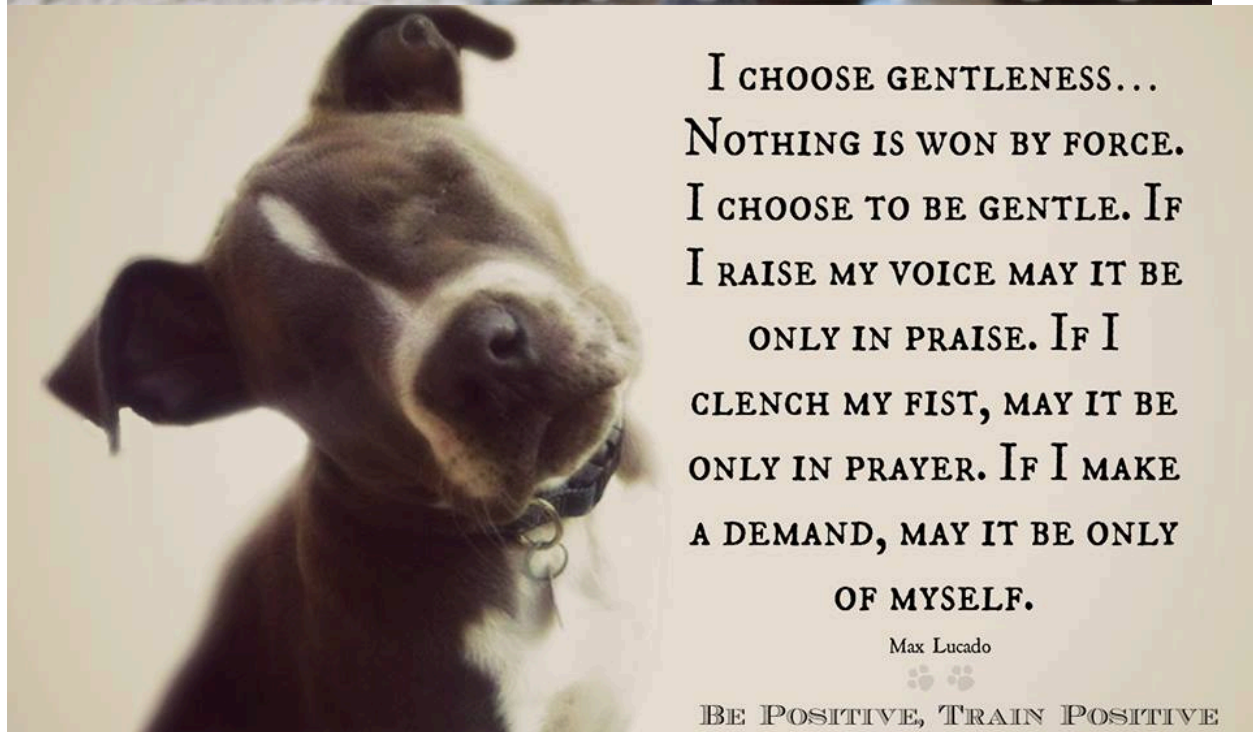
I am a:
Leader
Teacher
Mom
Caregiver

I train my dogs how to do things the right way before they can make a mistake.

I teach them how to react to real life situations.

I teach them what humans call "manners."

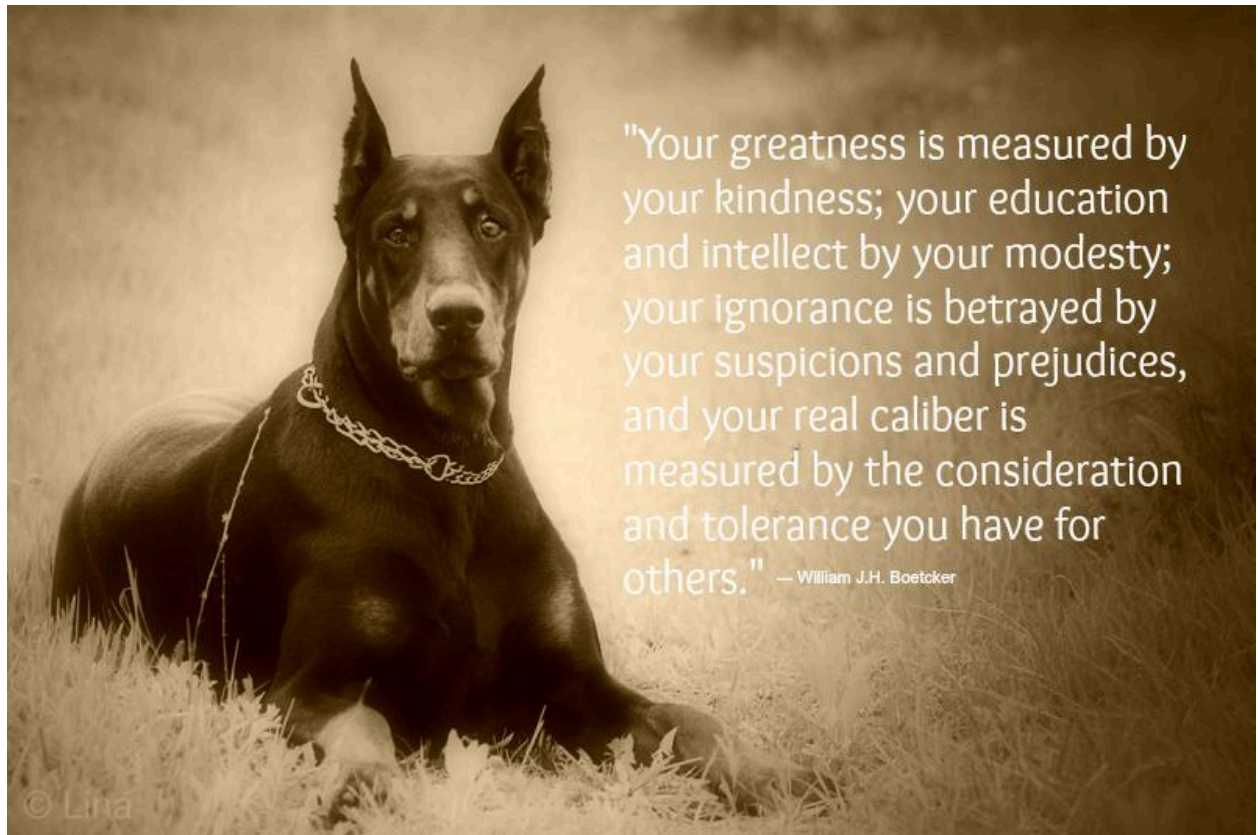
Choose Positive Reinforcement Based Training to Teach Your Dog



No one can change a
person, but a person
can be the reason
someone changes -
SpongeBob

factsaboutyou | tumblr

QUOTEPIX.COM



"Your greatness is measured by your kindness; your education and intellect by your modesty; your ignorance is betrayed by your suspicions and prejudices, and your real caliber is measured by the consideration and tolerance you have for others." — William J.H. Boetcker

© Lina

What a Clicker is:

- A clicker is a secondary reinforcer. You pair it with a primary reinforcer, such as food, to create a positive association between the two. Once the association has been formed, a dog will understand that a click means that a reward is coming.
- A clicker is used to mark the exact moment a desired behavior is performed.
- A clicker provides feedback to the dog to let him know exactly which behavior offered was the desired one.
- A clicker buys you some time when doling out treats. No need to be ready with a treat within seconds of the dog performing the desired behavior, which minimizes the risk of bribery. Once your dog understands that "click" means a treat is coming, you have time to reach for a treat after the click.

What a Clicker isn't:

- A clicker is not a remote control.
- A clicker is not something you point at your dog.
- A clicker is not something you use to get your dog's attention or to recall your dog.
- A clicker is not something you click - ever - without pairing it with a reward. Always, always, always pair the click with a reward, otherwise the clicker will lose its power.
- A clicker is not something you need to carry around with you in order to communicate with your dog (though that's always nice for capturing). It is simply used to teach a desired behavior; once the behavior has been learned, there's no need to use a clicker for that particular behavior anymore.

General Clicker Guidelines

If you click, you MUST treat - There can be no doubt in the dog's mind that a reward is coming once a click is heard. Even if you accidentally click at the wrong time or during an undesirable behavior, you still MUST reward - otherwise the clicker may lose its value & become irrelevant to the dog.

First you click THEN you reward. The click must precede the reward so that the dog expects the click to be the predictor of reward. The two cannot occur simultaneously, nor can the reward come before the click, in order for the dog to effectively form the association.

Keep that clicker hidden! A clicker can unintentionally become part of a cue. When cueing a behavior, keep the clicker out of the dog's sight as best as possible.

Timing is everything. In order for the dog to learn, make sure you are clicking at the exact moment that the dog is performing the desired behavior, or, if shaping, at the closest approximations of the desired behavior. That said, if you make a timing mistake with clicker training, it can't have a lasting or detrimental effect on the dog. Simply improve your timing & start over.

Be a photographer! Think of the clicker as a camera; you'd "release the shutter" (click) to capture the very moment the dog performs the desired behavior. Pretend you are compiling photos into an imaginary album featuring your dog's most desired behaviors. "Say CHEESE!"

For fearful or sound-sensitive dogs, you might first muffle the clicker in a towel (or use the top of a pen) so the sound doesn't startle the dog.



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POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Is the addition of a motivational stimuli to help increase the frequency of a desired behavior.



Some common motivators can include:

PRAISE

TOYS

FUN ACTIVITIES

FOOD REWARDS

PLAY

AFFECTION

SOCIALIZING

GAMES

Motivational and Educational Based-Dog Training Images

HOW TO BE THE PACK LEADER

THE 21st CENTURY WAY

SPEND TIME WITH YOUR DOG.



GUIDE YOUR DOG INTO DOING WHAT YOU
WANT HIM TO DO.



BE A GOOD LISTENER; WHAT IS YOUR DOG
TRYING TO TELL YOU?



BUILD A SOLID RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR
DOG BASED ON TRUST AND RESPECT.



NEVER STOP LEARNING AND PROGRESSING!



A good positive
reinforcement trainer
rarely, if ever, hands out
treats for no reason.
Each treat is carefully
planned out and should
always have a reason.

There is always a
strategy behind the treat!

Ines Gaschot



CALMING SIGNALS

WHAT ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY
LOOK LIKE?

Calming signals are used to maintain
a healthy communication among dogs.

Dogs use calming signals to calm
themselves and other dogs in the face
of fear, shock, danger or stress.

Yawning

Lip Licking

Shaking Off

Blinking

"Whale-Eye"

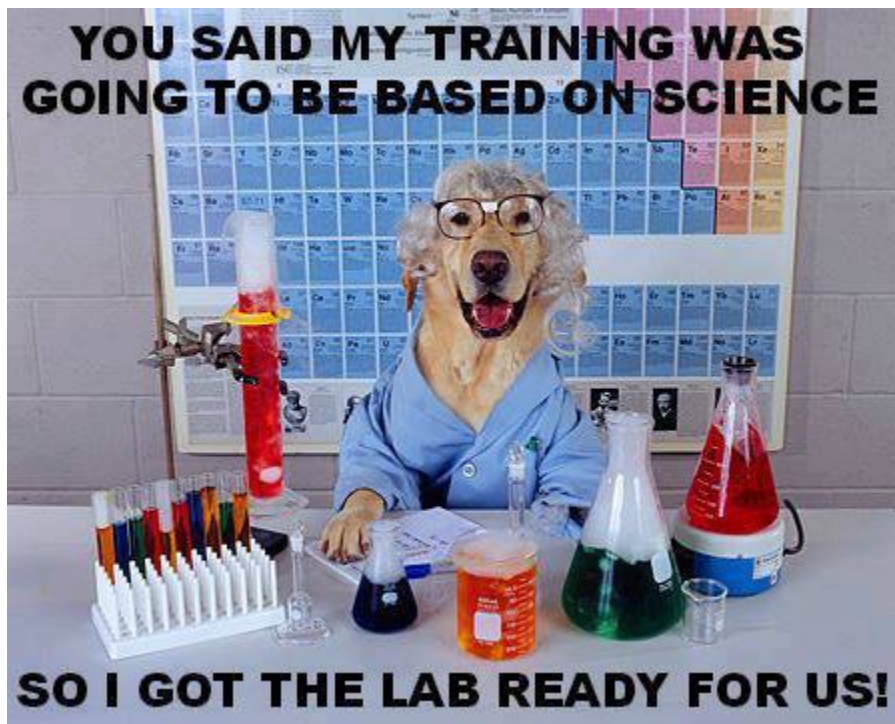
Paw Lifting

Ears Back

Head Turning



**YOU SAID MY TRAINING WAS
GOING TO BE BASED ON SCIENCE**



SO I GOT THE LAB READY FOR US!

Facebook Conversations

Verbal Corrections Discussion

[Leah Mouatt](#)

Confused....verbal corrections in training, to do or not to do? I heard an extremely prominent expert say in a podcast that they think it trains quicker to provide information about when the dog has done it wrong. She suggested using a word like "oops." Then I hear another expert talking about how that is a complete waste of time...thoughts?

[Like](#) · [Unfollow Post](#) · [November 22 at 4:37am](#)

[Lisa G White](#) I've always heard that by giving a verbal correction ie oops, uhuh, no, is giving feedback. eg remember that hot and cold game, the closer you are to something it's warm, warmer, hot, hottest, cool, cold, etc. But I think the reasoning to NOT giving a verbal correction / interrupter is that it's just not necessary. (I still don't see why) But maybe it comes from the whole philosophy of clicker training, look for the good, ignore the bad, plus I think from a emotional point of view when you constantly look for the negative and you correct, it sets up negative feelings in you and no doubt the dog. Sorry if I'm not too clear on this post, I haven't had my coffee yet and I'm still not sure about it either.

[November 22 at 4:48am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Julie Ryal Brewer](#) Welcome to the world of dog training. My personal opinion is that you judge by response. If you have strictly managed the situation so that the dog is most likely to choose and be rewarded for the correct response. You have been ignoring incorrect choices. You have raised the criteria within the dogs ability to cope and maintain a high reward frequency ... Then you should not need a correction. If you naturally use a verbal correction ... because you are human and reactive then assess the effect on the dog. If it is effective for that particular dog and the effect on training is an improvement in response then use it. But for some dogs even a small correction may lead to frustration, fear or shut down ... with subsequent reduction in training effect.

[November 22 at 4:54am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [7](#)

o

[Leah Mouatt](#) One simple example I have come across recently, teaching down stay..I can not resist the auto "no" when they get up! It certainly doesn't work and I think is pointless. I realise its about reading the timeframe of the stay and calling them before they get up...but umm yeah Im yet to see any benefit, but I can foresee how it might be useful at times. The only time it seems to work is if its a authoritative "no" in some situations. So I might just try and not do verbal corrections at this point until i get a feel for when it is useful.

But let's just say you use the word "oops" with no aggressive tone. How on earth do we teach the dog what it means? It must take a while for them to figure out, there is no punishment after it, no meaning. So is it just a word with no meaning. My head hurts

[November 22 at 5:04am](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

[Barbara Hoyson](#) I find oops as an interrupter works wonderfully and does give the dog the info that stop the action, what happened right then was not what we wanted, let's try again. Then we go back to where it went wrong and work on making it right. I have trained my dog that the word means stop, and he understands it. I see no reason to let him be wrong, thinking he was right. IMO that's not fair to the dog. I do not ignore incorrect choices, if I did that is not managing the situation, providing incorrect information, and also gave the dog practice on the wrong behavior. Oops, speeds up my training time immensely.

There is no shut down, no quitting.... Just a break in the action. He happily tries again. It like when I was in school and I skipped , my Dad found out but said nothing. In my mind he didn't care so I repeated it. I found out the second time he did care after a good grounding which I would have saved myself from if he just gave me the oops the first time. You have to train your dog the best for him and you, so whatever works without frustration wins.

[November 22 at 5:06am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Kristy-Lee Simmons Gibson](#) I prefer to teach a really solid "stop" (cue for freeze) and a positive interrupter to refocus the animal on me. Then we try again, or moderate what we're doing if need be. I don't think using verbal corrections when you're teaching new skills is ever helpful, and when there are simple ways around them that don't make the dog either feeling intimidated or ignore you, I'd rather use that.

[November 22 at 5:08am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [4](#)

[Leah Strates](#) Oops is really a NRM isn't it, not a verbal correction? Corrections should be used in the proofing stage if one intends to use them, not in the training stage. I would never correct in any way laying down foundations for behaviour.

[November 22 at 5:32am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Lisa G White](#) So what IS the difference between "oops" and "uhuh"? Semantics?

November 22 at 5:33am · [Like](#)

[Barbara Hoyson](#) No difference. Just means not what I wanted. Let's try again.

November 22 at 5:34am via mobile · [Like](#)

[Leah Mouatt](#) I think it's about tone. If there is no tone to convey error, I don't think it would mean anything

November 22 at 5:35am via mobile · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Tone... Maybe but I say uh uh or oops just and nice as I can say yes and good and it understood. It's a conditioned response from a pup. It simply means stop right there.. Abort.. Something went wrong. Pup understand what that means just as he understands a cue when you teach it. No need to have a negative tone at all. Now if you do yell it or use it negatively I can see where some dogs may get concerned. So if it's taught as a cue there absolutely is meaning.

November 22 at 5:57am via mobile · [Like](#) · 2

[Leah Strates](#) I don't think dogs understand different tones, they only understand what they represent. If you use the same 'wrong' tone over and over again and withhold a treat (or pop a leash or give the dog a smack, etc.) the tone becomes conditioned to the action. Without context though words or tones mean nothing. Unless you use such a roughshod voice the dog actually finds the volume aversive, I suppose.

November 22 at 5:58am via mobile · [Like](#)

[Barbara Hoyson](#) You shouldn't withhold a treat, pop or omg smack a dog! after giving the oops . The dog simply stops and waits for info. We go back where it went wrong and set up to make it right. There is no bad connected with the oops. It's just an informational cue.

November 22 at 6:10am via mobile · [Like](#)

[Leah Strates](#) I didn't say to do that, I'm just saying how a word or tone becomes a conditioned punisher. Otherwise they are just words, just like a click means nothing without the treat.

I'm confused though, if you don't withhold the treat what is the point of saying oops? The dog made a mistake, you wouldn't reward an incorrect action.

November 22 at 6:14am via mobile · [Like](#)

[Leah Strates](#) How can it be an informational cue without meaning being assigned to it? Words and tones and clicks mean nothing without the conditioning we assign to them.

November 22 at 6:15am via mobile · [Like](#)

[Leah Mouatt](#) I think I have an understanding now. If you condition oops as a positive, you are simply teaching stop what you are doing. In a dogs mind that just means stop. It's not going to have the cognitive ability to see that as getting it wrong. So you may as well replace oops with stop....it's no different. It's a physical action to the dog, not a mindset

November 22 at 6:28am via mobile · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · 2

[Leah Mouatt](#) Without conditioning either positive or negative, it means nothing. So in essence I'm not sure teaching a dog to gather information without punishment for getting a task wrong is possible.

November 22 at 6:30am via mobile · [Like](#)

[Leah Mouatt](#) It is however possible to teach a positive cue to stop and re set. Start again

November 22 at 6:32am via mobile · [Like](#) · 2

[Leah Strates](#) Even if oops is conditioned as a positive though the food is still withheld (the dog made a mistake so you cannot click or treat it), which still might serve as a mild aversive (depending on how food driven the dog is). Then it gets into the whole what quadrant does not treating fall under which gives me a headache generally, lol.

November 22 at 6:40am via mobile · [Like](#)

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Leah, I know you didn't say that. And I don't give a treat unless it's a correct response. Oops makes it an incomplete action. The cue was never completed. Cookies only come for correct completed cues. We aborted. I do t think of it has withholding a cookie. I only reward correctness. So if we don't complete the cue... We try again that all so the next time we make it right we can reward.

November 22 at 6:45am via mobile · [Like](#)

o

[Barbara Hoyson](#) It's informational because meaning is assigned to it. It means stop just as sit means sit. It's taught that way. Dogs have no problem understanding it when taught it.

[November 22 at 6:46am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

Leah Mouatt Yes I agree, but I don't think the dog could possibly understand it got it wrong. What if you swapped oops with sit. No difference to dog

[November 22 at 6:47am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

Barbara Hoyson [Leah Strates](#) yes. Oops means stop!!!! Then let's make it right!

[November 22 at 6:48am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

Barbara Hoyson I don't do science and quadrants. I just train dogs so it's fun for me and them and we understand each other ;)

[November 22 at 6:49am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Leah Mouatt I actually use a look at me cue quite often because I feel like that is going to grasp their attention/focus better...but it's probably not conveying that to the dog at all. They are just doing what I taught and are not interested in why I asked for that cue

[November 22 at 6:51am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

Barbara Hoyson Yes dogs can understand they got it wrong. We underestimate them. They are brilliant.

[November 22 at 6:51am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

Leah Mouatt Barbara can you describe the behaviour that's happening to show you they understand oops means wrong

[November 22 at 6:53am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Barbara Hoyson They simply stop what they are doing and look to me and we restart the exercise from where it went wrong. They simply stop and wait for info. Easy!

[November 22 at 6:56am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Leah Mouatt But that doesn't show that they know they got it wrong, it just means they've stopped

[November 22 at 6:58am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Leah Strates How do you train oops as stop? The same way as stay? As oops is a trained cue is it rewarded?

[November 22 at 6:58am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

Barbara Hoyson Yes it does mean wrong because they couldn't complete the exercise.

[November 22 at 7:01am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Barbara Hoyson To train it i say oops and immediately walk to dog or sometimes call to me to reset. When doing stationary it just a slight break in action then help to be right and then a reward.

[November 22 at 7:04am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Jeannette Kincaid I try not to use no-reward markers just out of principle. I don't think I would learn well with someone saying, "Wrong" every time I made a mistake. The reason people are opposed to no markers is because it conditions dogs not to try new things. you get a dog that won't offer new behaviors when you are trying to free shape or work more intricate behaviors. With that being said, I catch myself using them with serious behaviour issues like excessive or forceful jumping/nipping. More of a frustrated, "you are hurting me" type response. It does shut down the behaviour quickly and I have never loaded the no-marker with anything. I also use "uh-oh" when training loose leash walking. The sec. before the dog is about to pull tight on the leash, I mark it with "uh oh" and they come to know if I say "uh oh" they are about to go tight on leash and the start backing up.

[November 22 at 7:04am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

Barbara Hoyson Its all how you train your dog i dont t want my dog trying new things i want him to do the cue i gave him. And if your saying wrong a lot your not training right in the first place

[November 22 at 7:06am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

Leah Mouatt Ethics aside I don't think dogs can understand "I made a mistake" Even with a punishment based correction they are only conditioned to avoid an unwanted consequence. They're not thinking in anymore complex terms than that. I think wrong, error, mistake can only be understood with human cognition

[November 22 at 7:10am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Barbara Hoyson I disagree. But life is good and train your dogs how it makes you happy. I do what works for me. My dogs understand and love training without any fallout. We seldom have mistakes just how I like it. I guess I give my dogs the benefit if the doubt that they are damn smart creatures. Have to go to work now. Thanks for great discussion.

[November 22 at 7:15am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) My choice is to refrain from using verbal corrections.

For one thing, doing so forces me to keep my focus on what the dog is doing right. There is always something good that we can build off of and if my attention is there, we are building toward improvement.

Second, doing so helps me to be patient and to keep any possible frustration in check. Not to say I never get frustrated, but, again, if the dog and I are working together to build on what is there right now, usually I have my own training goals in perspective.

Finally, I have not found it to be necessary to tell dogs that they are "wrong" in order for the dog to learn what is desired. Since it is not necessary and I have found it personally beneficial to focus solely on what is right, this has worked very, very well for me.

Let me be clear - this doesn't mean I let the dog run roughshod! If I want the dog to spin counter clockwise and the dog keeps spinning clockwise, I am going to back up in our training to build the behavior we are working toward - perhaps bring back a hand target or target stick. Build the response on physical cue before reintroducing the verbal. Once strength is built back into the counter clockwise direction, reintroduce the verbal, etc.

It's a mindset that I personally love and appreciate, and I don't see those who are training around me who do incorporate non reward markers, or verbal corrections, getting results any faster than I do.

[November 22 at 7:16am](#) · [Like](#) · [5](#)

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[Leah Strates](#) I agree with Leah, but have no problems with someone using oops or a nrm or whatever. I do not consider them verbal corrections however, and again stress corrections are only effective in the proofing stage and have no place in training foundations (not that it matters to positive trainers who use none anyway of course lol).

[November 22 at 7:20am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

○

[Susan Shipman](#) I think sometimes verbal corrections are necessary for some dogs, like my JRT, who will continue doing what she thinks is the correct behavior until I correct her. She'll literally keep doing the wrong behavior, thinking it's the right one, until she gets so frustrated that she isn't getting a treat, that she starts to bark in protest. So I have to give her a light verbal correction like "no" (yes, I do use the word sometimes) or "uh oh" and it usually works. Of course, I'm not suggesting yelling it out of frustration, which is NEVER okay...just saying it in a normal speaking tone.

[November 22 at 7:33am](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) One last thought. Your at work and you boss promises you a 1,000 bonus upon completion of a project. The project must be done completely and correctly to earn the bonus. You do it to the best of your ability, think it's the best thing you've ever done, and it is totally correct. The boss does not give you the bonus. Obviously he's either a jerk or something went wrong with the project. But what? Why didn't I get that bonus. Which part could have been done better to earn that cookie? With no information from Your boss you'll never know how to earn that cookie. That is what makes me stressed and confused. I avoid it at all cost with my dog. It's just information. Back to work.

[November 22 at 7:33am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

○

[Leah Strates](#) But I can't explain to my dog exactly what he did wrong, which can lead to confusion as well. The dog may not understand why he's been told wrong at all.

[November 22 at 7:44am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Leah Mouatt](#) Now imagine your boss speaks a different language Barbara

[November 22 at 8:03am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Leah Strates](#) Well there is always body language lol. People do seem to forget dogs read us like books and that whoops comes with an expression that the dog does grasp from watching us. My dog takes non verbal cues better than commands, which I think says a lot.

[November 22 at 8:08am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) "With no information from Your boss you'll never know how to earn that cookie. That is what makes me stressed and confused."

I get confused by this part of your analogy, though! When one trains without corrections, there should not be "no information" being given. There should be quite a lot of information being given.

Praise, bridges, markers, prompts, clicks, are all information. Even silence can be information to an experienced dog (to my

dogs, silence means "you are doing exactly what you should be, keep going!"). And yes, body language is also information. Targets, barriers, platforms, etc. can also provide excellent information. Reward placement, used well, is also a wealth of information.

If the dog is lacking information from the handler, a verbal correction or nrm is certainly not the only option the handler has to provide that information. There are a world of options to choose from.

[November 22 at 8:15am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Now i dont want to work i want to stay here with you guys. Leah. Different language , i would hope he would be kind enough to show me visually as we do with our dogs. Leah strates yes u can! Example. Hope u can relate. My figs sitting in middle of room. I signal to take jump on left. My dog jumps up and heads right. I say oops ! He stops and i show him signal and point to correct jump. We set up again. Now i give cue for correct jump again . He makes correct choice with help and gets rewarded at end if exercise. Next time we try he makes correct choice becuz he earned reward last time. If he proceeds wrong again i didnt do my job explaining what i wanted. I should get correction ;)

[November 22 at 8:16am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) I love this topic - that's why I'm going on and on. But I wanted to share a little bit about how I learn.

My dogs and I study Agility together and I am not a natural athlete. Often I struggle to get the handling down correctly.

I will go out and try but sometimes my instructor will call out "late" or "early" or some such to indicate what I did wrong. Now, she is very nice about it and I am not offended in any way. But, the bottom line is, it doesn't help me. It doesn't convey to me what I need to do.

If I happen to get it right the next time, I often don't really "get" what was right. And usually I will overcompensate when trying to "fix" something "wrong".

Sometimes I get frustrated and I hand my handler a clicker and say "click at the exact moment when I am supposed to [insert handling skill here]". When she does this, I physically feel what I am supposed to be doing at the moment it is supposed to happen. Suddenly the timing makes sense, and I can usually replicate it after just one or two repetitions with the click. (The entire class is usually laughing at this but I don't care because I am getting the info I need. And we are all friends . . .)

Now, I know that is not exactly how a click is used for the dog, but I am a human asking to be taught as a human.

But my point is that I simply don't find "wrong" to be useful information. I need to know what "right" looks like and feels like. I don't need to be wrong to know how to be right - I need to know what right is!!

So, this is another reason why I don't incorporate verbal corrections or nrm's. Experientially they don't make sense to me. Being told what is right does. That doesn't mean I crumble when I am told I am wrong - I have a pretty thick skin. It just means I find being told that I am wrong to be insufficient information.

When the argument is made for use of verbal corrections, "don't you want to be told when you are wrong?", my honest answer is, "No. I want to be told how to be right".

Ooooooh, this shoulda been a blog post!!

[November 22 at 8:26am](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [6](#)

[Leah Strates](#) I understand, you are using the whoops as a way to interrupt what he's doing and your body language to give him information as to what to do. Maybe it is semantics but I still don't really consider that a verbal correction though as a correction is an aversive to me which decreases behaviour, not just information, but I am rigid in my views I guess because I've learned from many different types of trainers, some positive, some balanced, and usually refer to the quadrants to break down what I am doing and why it works. I don't think an interrupter is an aversive.

[November 22 at 8:27am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Its not adverse or correction. Just info to stop

[November 22 at 8:34am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Leah Strates](#) Yes I agree.

[November 22 at 8:36am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) [Kristine Hammar](#) you are correct. "Wrong" itself is not useful info. That's why it is paired with direct and immediate help. That's where the info comes in. It is a great topic isn't it.

[November 22 at 8:51am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Leah Strates So does anyone use verbal corrections in the actual proofing stage? Ah ah or no or something if the dog pulls on his leash or blows a stay?

November 22 at 8:55am via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Leah Strates For example if my dog blows his stay and gets up I'll say hey or ah ah and he'll lay down again. Not in a training situation but a real life situation.

November 22 at 9:01am via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Heather Clever I don't use verbal correction or No Reward Markers. Even if the sound is overall upbeat, like, "oops!" IMO it's a distraction and not helpful. Dogs are not machines; they are going to make mistakes from time to time even when they "know" the game well. A NRM can split the dog's concentration between "what is the game" and "uh-oh, I just got part of the game wrong." Karen Pryor also writes in *Reaching the Animal Mind* that by bringing attention to a mistake, you can actually highlight that action in the animal's mind and make it more likely that the mistake will be repeated.

November 22 at 9:43am via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

Heather Clever She also wrote a great article on it:

<http://www.clickertraining.com/node/2848>

"An NRM may cue extinction, but in doing so it also signals a loss of opportunity. The chance of earning reinforcement has closed. If the subject changes his behavior to avoid the NRM—and that is the whole point of its use—then the NRM is by definition an aversive. It may be a mild aversive or it may be severe, depending upon the learner's mindset, but it is a stimulus the learner is actively working to avoid. Because the trainer introduces the NRM upon the learner's mistake (adds an aversive stimulus that modifies behavior), the NRM is positive punishment."

"Some trainers use NRMs not only to shape a new behavior, but to indicate any mistake a learner makes, including a failure to respond properly to a cue (no response or an incorrect response). For example, if a trainer sends a dog to select a scented object from a collection and the dog retrieves the wrong one, the trainer might say "oops" as the dog picks up the incorrect object.

While, superficially, this seems to be relevant data, it can break down careful training. Positively-trained cues are themselves tertiary reinforcers. An NRM after a failed cue breaks the contract of reinforcement, offering P+ after a tertiary reinforcer—and creates serious risk of poisoning the cue (and rendering it useless for future use in chains).

(Note: If you find yourself using an NRM after a cue, review the cue. Why isn't it working? The issue is probably not the NRM at all!)"

"Why tell the dog that he wasn't successful? This question is usually asked in a more philosophical way, but I mean it very practically—if the dog needs an NRM to realize that he isn't being reinforced, the trainer has screwed up badly. Why doesn't the dog know already? Clicker training is pretty much yes/no. If training has been set up so that the dog can't tell if he's been successful, and he needs supplemental information, then something is wrong! (See "Fixing behavior without an NRM" for more on this.)"

[Should You Use No Reward Markers? Examining the Debate | Karen Pryor Clicker Training](#)

www.clickertraining.com

It's out there, lurking. At times you feel it stalking just behind you. At last ...See More

November 22 at 10:44am · [Like](#) · [2](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

○

Barbara Hoyson How is it highlighted if not reinforced????? Actually the dog does not make the mistake because it's been interrupted before he does. Like hitting the brakes before you crash into a tree. Again, too much science, I prefer to actually train. I don't care if you want to call it aversive, call it what you want. It's the nicest way to prevent a mistake from occurring and then teaching the dog what right. We get so hung up on the science crap that we forget to train the dog we have in front of us. The proof for me is in the training of the dog and how successful he is not spewing science. It works for me and I'm sticking with it.

November 22 at 11:08am via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

Heather Clever [Barbara](#), personally I love the science and think it makes me a better trainer in the long run. If not for science, we might all still be using compulsion methods.

What I'm curious about is, why is it so important to interrupt a mistake? and are you really interrupting the behavior every time? what do you think of Karen's point about poisoning cues?

November 22 at 11:19am via [mobile](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Heather. Science is great but it just goes overboard sometimes. I really don't think science and being kind has anything to do with one another. I've always trained kindly because I love my dogs more than anything. I know the principles of science but seemingly they mean different things to different people.

I interrupt a mistake because I do not want my dog rehearsing that mistake. I stop him so I can make him go right and then reward his wonderful behavior. By rehearsing bad and letting him think he's right is just not fair. I have also not found in training 3 dogs for competition and doing very well, have my cues ever been poisoned. I don't really agree with a lot in the article but I don't know how many dogs she has trained thru high levels of competition where you get one shot to be right. Article is her point of view and I just feel that's an unfair way to train. JMHO. Thanks for the discussion.

November 22 at 11:30am via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) Barbara, I disagree with your use of the value judgment "unfair". Please realize that there are many of us who train that way and we know perfectly well that it is absolutely fair and effective.

If it is your choice to include verbal corrections or nrm's, that is your choice.

As a +R trainer who does not incorporate verbal corrections or nrms, I stand my my training choices as both fair and effective.

Also, debating "fair" is a slippery slope. Can either side of the debate prove "fair"? Not really. Can you really prove that I am not being "fair" to my dogs? They are well trained, eager performance partners who have gone above and beyond for me in regular life, in training, and in the ring time and time again and are extraordinarily happy dogs. If my training approach is "unfair", then the word is poorly defined.

Just some food for thought. I don't mean to nitpick at you, but being told that omission of verbal corrections is "unfair" to dogs is like nails on a chalkboard to me.

November 22 at 11:40am · [Like](#) · 1

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Kristine. Correct and i feel the same in reverse. And again. Its NOT a correction. I dont know how else to explain it to you. I am not talking about you or anyone else. I font care how you train. I said itis how I feel and what works for me. You feel its unfair for me to use the nrm. Thats your choice. I guess i better by Jagger a science book so we can both be on the same page.

Im entitled to

My opinion as you are. that's fair

November 22 at 12:48pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) There is a difference between using different terminology and value judgments.

You are entitled to your opinion. And on a public discussion group, I am entitled to express my own and stand by it.

I am curious about one thing - where did I say that it was not fair for you to use an nrm? Where did I say that anyone was doing something unfair? I actually don't use such language for reasons that go way beyond dog training.

My choice to omit use of verbal corrections, nrm's, and interuptors (other than those that are specifically reinforcing), has nothing to do with "fair" or "unfair". My choice is based on 1) what makes the most sense to me; 2) what has been effective in my training time and time again; and 3) the fact that I have never found them to be necessary.

Bottom line is - if you want to publicly state that the way I train my dogs is "unfair", I challenge you to see us work in person and then say it to my face. I pretty much guarantee that if you saw us in action in person, you wouldn't say it.

November 22 at 1:46pm · [Like](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) [Kristine Hammar](#) where on earth did i say publicly that you or anyone else trains unfair. I said thats how i train and its my opinion. I never mentioned you or anyone else by name did I? I stated it was my opinion. I misspoke you did not imply my nrm was unfair. But you did the same thing by stating that i said you were unfair. I did not. Bottom line i couldnt give a rat how you train. We were simply having a nice conversation until now. But i do love your points 1 & 2 above. My number 3 would be worded differently. Have fun training.

November 22 at 2:16pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) While you did not mention me, or anyone else, by name, your statement (see several posts above), "and I just feel that's an unfair way to train." is a very specific public statement that the way that a population of +R trainers (including myself) train.

While you did not call anyone out personally, I did feel it was merited to speak out for the kind of training that I, and other members here, use very fairly and effectively.

And yes, I concur - #3 is where we fundamentally differ.

November 22 at 2:19pm · [Like](#)

○

[Leah Mouatt](#) Please blog Kristine....btw what's the link to your blog

November 22 at 2:21pm via mobile · [Unlike](#) · [2](#)

○

[Ines Gaschot](#) Ladies, lets stick to the discussion and avoid accusing each other of things. Terminology varies between people online, here is one of my blog posts about this:<http://www.thecrossovertrainer.com/the-downfall-of-labels/>

I understand what [Barbara Hoyson](#) is trying to say. That it is an interruption, not a "bad dog" statement. I'm actually experimenting with this right now with one of my dogs who has little impulse control. I feel like sometimes he needs more feedback than I've been giving him.

Overall, however, I would not recommend this to a client. And don't use this with my other dog. Like Barbara said, if you find yourself using it all the time, you're messing up somewhere and you need to go back to foundations. Most people don't understand this. I have found that clicker training is very effective for most dogs.

P.S. Don't diss science.



[The Downfall of Labels and Miscommunication - The Crossover Trainer Blog](#)

www.thecrossovertrainer.com

What if you switched the word "interrupter" with "correction"? What if you switc...See More

November 22 at 2:35pm · [Like](#) · [6](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

○

[Ines Gaschot](#) P.P.S. Great discussion so far!!!

November 22 at 2:39pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Good point and it also varies with the dog. Some do well with it and probably some wouldn't. But like clicker timing is everything so your right not good to recommend to everyone. Overuse is a bad thing.

November 22 at 2:43pm via mobile · [Unlike](#) · [2](#)

○

[Sharon Normandin](#) Using words like "oops" or "try again" serve as "no reward markers" (NRMs), and I think they can be extremely useful in teaching the dog that the behaviour is not what you want. I think they are most effective after you have established a good history of reinforcement for the correct behaviour.

November 22 at 5:07pm · [Unlike](#) · [2](#)

○

[Kate End Bsl Kearney](#) I haven't read the thread, but I use verbal commands for positive and ignore for undesired/negative behaviours. E.g Zya does something I like "good sit Zya, good girl, good sit" but if she does something I don't like, rather than saying "NO!" or "Naughty!" I just ignore.

November 22 at 6:34pm · [Like](#)

○

[Leah Mouatt](#) I think the problem I'm having with this discussion, is as Ines pointed out, labels. We're assigning meaning and emotion to words, cues, and philosophies that have absolutely no relevance to how the dog is feeling, reacting, learning and behaving

My issues is really simple. If you want to communicate an error and correct it, how do you do this without punishment? I don't think you can. If you are purely cueing the dog in a positive way there is no reason that the dog could differentiate your cue to mean error from any other cue like sit. It just means stop what you are doing. The dog would react simplistically just like any other cue. Ok I'll do that for reward. I don't think it would get any more complex than that. There is a possibility that your body language is conveying a message. But I would not believe this to be possible without evidence and then as others have pointed out, why not just ignore it and start again. I think that without an 'error' cue our body language might show them something about getting it wrong, but once again, what would their interpretation of that be?

In essence without significant evidence to show a huge advantage to training speeds I don't think there is any use for trying to communicate an error.

November 22 at 7:07pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Blanche Axton](#) I try to avoid things like "Oops", "ahah"--less because I disapprove of them (I don't entirely) but mostly because they are a habit I can fall into all too easily so it's mostly about keeping my own sloppy habits in check.

November 22 at 7:48pm · [Unlike](#) · [5](#)

○

[Micha Michlewicz](#) I agree with Blanche. Perhaps they can be helpful, or not. I'm not too sure. But I don't want to have to become reliable on them. I do use them sometimes for public assistance work though. I think working dogs require a lot of feedback/communication and they can be helpful and less of a training crutch than just a way to communicate.

November 22 at 8:59pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Wulf Shuyler](#) My take on it: I don't use NRMs or verbal corrections(they're different, I believe), because I am personally not comfortable with it. I don't think it's "wrong" to use them, and I can definitely see their usefulness, but it just isn't for me.

November 23 at 4:18pm · [Unlike](#) · [4](#)

○

[Ines Gaschot](#) Truly enjoying everyone's opinions on this. It can be a touchy subject and I'm really happy to see everyone sharing their thoughts without getting reactive.

November 23 at 4:46pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) I have a question for someone who doesn't use NM. I hope someone who does comp obedience can help me out. What do you do in this circumstance? Your doing directed jumping while training. Does perfect go out, turn and sit. You signal for jump to the left. Dog heads out to take the jump on the right! Obviously you would reward the error. Now what? How does the dog know which piece of that exercise didn't earn him the reward? Part of it was correct. What if he does the same thing again. How would you handle this so the dog understands the last part of the exercise was incorrect. In my normal training I would have said "oops" as soon as he headed for the wrong jump, stopping him from taking the jump and giving info as to where the exercise went wrong. We would then go back to the go out spot and help him by showing him with the cue, pointing and maybe tapping the correct jump so he gets a chance to earn the reward. So how would I work this without using the NRM?

November 23 at 8:24pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Wulf Shuyler](#) [Barbara Hoyson](#), I don't do obedience, but this is how I would do it:

To start with, I wouldn't lump the go out, turn, sit, and jump on the left all together. I would work on each of them individually, making sure the dog knew and understood what was being asked, and which physical cue meant what. If he did start to go for the "wrong" jump, I'd call him back and cue him for the "correct" jump. Then I'd work on signals for each jump to ensure that he doesn't go for the "wrong" jump again.

Again, I don't do obedience, so I hope that makes sense, lol. Whenever Lobo makes a mistake, it's because *I* didn't make it clear enough what was being asked, so I go back and try to make it clearer.

November 23 at 8:29pm · [Like](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) [Wulf Shuyler](#), so you'd say his name to prevent him from taking the wrong jump? See all these pieces get preformed as an exercise. So although the exercise gets split into small pieces while teaching, eventually they have to all come together. Sometimes because of some sort of pressure, lack of attention, whatever the dog will make a mistake. Thanks you reminded me of something I forget to do time to time and that's working each jump individually. Thank you.

November 23 at 8:43pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Wulf Shuyler](#) I didn't say I'd say his name. I just said I'd call him back away from the jump. XD

November 23 at 8:44pm · [Like](#)



○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Ok got it. Thanks.

November 23 at 8:46pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Wulf Shuyler](#) I also made a mistake: I didn't mean that I would *never* put all the things together. Obviously, if you're doing Ob, you're gonna eventually want the dog to perform everything all at once. I just meant that I wouldn't begin the training with everything at once. (Not saying you did that, just giving an example.)

November 23 at 8:46pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) "How would you handle this so the dog understands the last part of the exercise was incorrect."

This is simple - I wouldn't. I am in no way going to communicate "that was incorrect" to the dog.

I might even reinforce the sequence to reinforce attitude and effort. Definitely a boatload of praise since a good bit of the sequence was good. I definitely want to convey that the dog is well on the right track.

I would probably actually just try it again once. The error could have been a fluke, an unclear cue on my part, a genuine mistake by the dog. If it's a one time thing, I do nothing out of the ordinary and we move on. Mistakes happen.

But if it is clearly not a one time fluke, I will set about to back up a bit and then build fluency back up.

My first step would be to set the dog up for success. Perhaps isolate the part of the exercise that didn't go as planned so the dog will get it right. I would jackpot that and work it until it was reliable. That might happen in one session or not, depending. Just as, in my example above, the instructor is going to stop telling me that I'm late and start to give me information that helps me to be correct, I am going to give the dog information to help him or her be correct. I may use an exaggerated cue, or a target, or a barrier or whatever is appropriate (if any of that is necessary, which it may or may not be)

Now, if it were the case that there were times when I might want the left jump and times when I might want the right, I am going to build fluency in understanding of the discrimination of the two on cue. I might even work that without the jumps for a while to really isolate the criteria. Set out two targets where the jumps would be, perhaps, so the jumps are out of the picture. I would add those back in once I were confident that the discrimination is clear. From there we would move back to sit with the discrimination. From there we would chain back to the send, turn, sit, jump, and make sure the discrimination cue is perfectly clear and well understood.

Granted, all of that might not be necessary, but if need be, I will always back up, break things down, return to the foundation, and make sure we are on the same page before re-raising criteria.

This sort of troubleshooting is something that my dogs and I truly enjoy.

November 23 at 8:48pm · Edited · [Like](#) · [2](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Ok, great explanation . Thank you.

November 23 at 8:53pm via mobile · [Like](#) · [2](#)

○

[Jen Germaine](#) I use "that'll do" and I say it almost like I'm singing it. It's a positive interrupter, which is what I use instead of a verbal correction. It gets their attention and then I am able to cue another behavior. Ex: Fenton chases after the his squirrel nemesis in the yard, barking his head off. I holler, "That'll Doooooooo!" He stops, turns his head, and I recall him. He comes running back and I reward him. A positive verbal interrupter is so much better, especially when you can get their attention and replace the unwanted behavior with something they know will garner positive attention and rewards. It's so simple, and it's bananas how well it works. Of course you can use any phrase you like, but the tone has got to be uplifting and pleasant.

November 23 at 10:32pm · [Unlike](#) · [5](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Yes Gen thats how I use my interrupter. Never tried that'll doooooo though. I like it.

November 24 at 4:50am via mobile · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Micha Michlewicz](#) I do a neural interrupter. I don't condition in any way before using it. In my own pets, it's simply "no" in a slightly upbeat tone, then I reward for their redirecting to another behavior of their choosing. I don't need to micromanage and pick it for them.

For other animals, especially as yet untrained ones, I'll use a novel noise (tongue noises or whatever) to get their attention and thus interrupt them, giving me a chance to go and redirect them since their behaviors usually aren't strong enough or learned yet for me to rely on verbal direction alone.

But that's not NRM's.

It's just my opinion that a positive interrupter is too much like a marker so I use neutral ones.

November 24 at 5:13am via mobile · Edited · [Like](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Positive or neutral interrupter. Does it really matter??? Are we splitting hairs? It seems it is any sound that stops the dog from doing something. We just seem to each have a little different way to use it. Or we seem to have different feelings about it. Jmo

[November 24 at 5:28am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) Actually, I believe it does matter. A positive interruptor, which is the only type I personally use in training, builds behavior. An example of that would be the LAT game. Use of the positive interruptor actually teaches the dog to self-interrupt in the face of the trigger at the same time that it desensitizes and counter conditions the dog to create a positive emotional response to the trigger.

I've actually seen people attempt to accomplish the same thing using an aversive interruptor and I've watched it fail because the dog's emotional response to the trigger remains negative (not negative in the quadrant sense, but negative as the word would commonly be used), so in the long run, the dog continues to respond poorly to the trigger.

Neutral - well, I can't see that a neutral interruptor would remain neutral for long. It seems that it would either become positive by being consistently paired with reinforcement, or possibly aversive by being paired with a distinct negative consequence. That's why I personally don't choose to incorporate a supposedly "neutral" interruptor into my own training. Add human emotion into the picture, and "neutral" becomes even more tricky.

So, yes, although it seems very nitpicky, I would say this can matter a great deal, and that it is worth careful consideration.

[November 24 at 9:48am](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

○

[Blanche Axton](#) "That'll do"--had a nostalgic moment with that one as I used it with my working border collies years ago.....

[November 24 at 11:00am](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) I use "That'll do" with my Border Collies. It either means we are finished outside and we are all headed to the house, or it means a game is over and it's time to be "at ease".

[November 24 at 11:55am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Lori Adams](#) This is one of those things which unnecessarily divides trainers, I think. Best not to get too hung up on it. I don't consider interruptors or NRMs inhumane.

[November 24 at 12:11pm](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) I have to respectfully disagree, Lori. To recognize a true difference - and the use and choice to refrain from use of nrm's is a very real difference between trainers - and to come to understand the reasons for the difference in training choice is not division.

Humane or inhumane is one reason why trainers might chose to use them or not, but it is certainly not the only reason. Whether or not an individual perceives them as necessary (some do, some do not), personal experience with use or choice not to use, observed effects on dogs trained (both by oneself or by others among whom one trains), and many other factors can certainly play a part in that choice.

This is one area where there is an actual divide between trainers, even between trainers who consider themselves to be +R trainers. This is a divide that is there, and will be there, whether we acknowledge it or not. Why not discuss that difference openly and honestly? That isn't divisive. Open discussion can be a first step toward building bridges of understanding between those who make different choices.

[November 24 at 12:20pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Lori Adams](#) YMMV, perhaps this is a good, civil venue in which to discuss it, thank goodness. I have often seen it become unnecessarily divisive in other groups. Sorry if that seemed caustic.

[November 24 at 12:33pm](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Micha Michlewicz](#) I think these sanctimonious contests are tiresome and repel people who otherwise would like to learn more about force free training.

A neutral marker isn't conditioned before hand to mean anything positive or negative. It simply gets attention on you, without startling or scaring, in which case it would be rendered a NEGATIVE interrupter. It can become whatever you make it. I'm not responsible for what others do. Only myself.

[November 24 at 2:12pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)



○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Here's the great part. I really don't think the dog really notices if it's neutral, or positive. He would notice negative of course. It's simply information, nothing harmful in any way. But whether you use them or not, you do what's

best for you and your dog with the least amount of fallout, what is proven to work for you ,and how your dog learns the best. Everyone here treats their dog the kindest way you know how, so it's all good.

November 24 at 1:12pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)



○
[Kristine Hammar](#) "I think these sanctimonious contests are tiresome and repel people who otherwise would like to learn more about force free training."

Why is it sanctimonious to openly and honestly discuss why we make the training choices we make?

Now I know that question might sound "sanctimonious", but I really want to know.

If you use an nrm or verbal correction or neutral or aversive interruptor, you and I have made different training choices. Why is it sanctimonious to talk about our reasons for making the choices we make?

Might there not be something worth learning by openly discussing the matter?

In case my tone might be misread, as happens so often on the internet, I am not upset in any way. Curious, interested, but definitely not upset.

November 24 at 2:01pm · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

[Ines Gaschot](#) Everyone please take a break. This is not a subject matter to get upset over. - Ines (Group Founder)

November 24 at 1:59pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

○
[Jen Germaine](#) I don't feel like there's anything wrong with yelling, even if you sound stern. Of course it depends on the temperament of the dog. We don't want to do it to a sensitive dog. As long as our dogs knows that they will be rewarded when they comply, I see no harm in it.

There are times when the distraction is far more interesting than what we have to offer, and they truly cannot hear us. It's no different from when we are engrossed in something on television, reading a great book, or enthralled by something exciting on our computers. Someone may have to raise their voices to get out attention.

As we all know, a dog's sense of smell, especially in the act of snorting up something new and exciting, can lessen their ability to hear you. On the trail I often have to raise my voice to interrupt them, and be firm with my recalls. But they ALWAYS get rewarded with tasty goodness and a celebratory dance party.

November 24 at 2:32pm · [Edited](#) · [Unlike](#) · [1](#)

○
[Kat Camplin](#) I haven't chimed in, but my thinking is, if you need a correction or NRM your criteria and reinforcement rate are out of balance and you need to reassess and go in smaller pieces.

Since my dogs are trained through Utility, I'll answer this question, "Your doing directed jumping while training. Does does perfect go out, turn and sit. You signal for jump to the left. Dog heads out to take the jump on the right! Obviously you would reward the error. Now what?"

First, realize, your chain is broken. A chain is a series of behaviors that are strung together, one reinforcing the other, until the final behavior. When working on a chain, you train each behavior separately. For the directed jumping, you'd train each jump separately as single jumps before introducing the choice. The signals to choose a jump are modifier cues - left / right / up / down/ big / little > it's teaching a choice. In answer to your question - it's not the dog's fault they chose incorrectly - you didn't teach the behavior to fluent understanding. So, if it's not the dog's fault, why do they get a correction? Let them take the jump, don't allow them to front (that's the reinforcement for the jump,) direct them "here" mid jump and take them over to the other jump and give the cue again. Jump, mark and reward and end your session. Next session just work on the modifier signals for the jump without the go-out and sit or front. Just the jumps.

November 24 at 2:21pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○
[Jen Germaine](#) Forgive initial bad grammar. I edited it.

November 24 at 2:33pm · [Like](#)

[Kat Camplin](#) Um.. my 3 taps on the window for the dogs to come in doesn't need to get any louder when there's a raccoon in the yard vs. when there's not. Training to fluency is the part most people forget:

<http://www.clickertraining.com/node/2279>

[Everything You Wanted to Know About Proofing—But Were Afraid to Ask | Karen Pryor Clicker Training](#)
www.clickertraining.com

"My dog can sit, come, target, give eye contact, walk politely on leash, (insert...See More

November 24 at 2:38pm · [Like](#) · [1](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

○

[Lori Adams](#) Funny, I use interruptors but not NRMS.

November 24 at 2:48pm · [Like](#)

○

[Micha Michlewicz](#) I can see NRMs for working dogs but not so much pets. I think Roger Ambrantes had a blog on their use for scent detection dogs or something. Point being, unless what we're asking is really intricate and complicated, you probably don't really need a NRM all that much, because NRM is more communication than you really need for most pet behaviors.

Yes, we should be striving for errorless learning where the dog never gets a chance to flounder but we're not perfect. I don't know if the lack of feedback while the dog fails is more stressful than a NRM or not.

My opinion on yelling is not so much that dogs should be yelled at, but they should be conditioned to it because they're probably going to be exposed to it sooner or later, whether they're the intended audience or not.

November 24 at 3:20pm via mobile · [Like](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) But Kat trained thru utility and campaigning your UDX are remarkably different things. You need to constantly maintain behaviors. Dogs will make mistakes and not because it wasn't taught properly. Dogs make mistakes and sometimes it is their fault just like we do.

November 24 at 6:27pm via mobile · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

○

[Kat Camplin](#) Correct #1, trialing and training are 2 different things. For the most part, you can control the training environment to set the dog up to succeed. You are at the mercy of the show chair during a trail. Correct #2, dogs aren't programmable robots (although even then code fails,) but either they made an honest mistake or you didn't train it properly. Neither of which is reason for a correction.

November 24 at 4:12pm · [Like](#) · [3](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Never saw a dog make a dishonest mistake. Then of course , we can get into the meaning of the word correction. All these terms definitely mean different things to different people. No wonder everyone's so divided. There are too many personal feelings involved, Especially when there is no one right way for everyone or every dog.

November 24 at 7:28pm via mobile · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Kat Camplin](#) so, you've never had a dog accidentally hit your clicker hand, making it click? lol. Maybe it's not completely "dishonest," but definitely in the mischievous realm.

Yes, terms mean different things to different people, however the OP used "verbal correction," which means that meaning should be what is being discussed. You can paint it with NRM or "oops," but the objective is still the same. Reinforcement increases the behavior, punishment decreases the behavior. If you are attempting to decrease the wrong choice, it's punishment.

November 24 at 7:40pm · [Like](#)

○

[Barbara Hoyson](#) Ok Kat! You got me ;)

November 24 at 7:42pm via mobile · [Like](#)

○

[Blanche Axton](#) Kat--I've had that happen.

November 24 at 9:00pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Blanche Axton](#) In fact, I had a dog that would steal clickers and follow me around the house clicking them, dropping them, sitting and waiting for treat only to pick clicker back up and continue following me around the house. Extinction burst on that behaviour wastrying.....

November 24 at 9:07pm · [Like](#) · [6](#)

[Kat Camplin](#) LOL. That's awesome [Blanche Axton](#) !! Did you get that on video? That would be fun to see!

November 24 at 9:09pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

○

[Blanche Axton](#) No, sadly, it was in the days before I had a video camera.....

November 24 at 9:10pm · [Like](#)

○

[Blanche Axton](#) And I probably did use non reward markers or verbal corrections in that I kept saying "For crying out loud, Scout. STOP clicking me".....

November 24 at 9:11pm · [Unlike](#) · [3](#)

○

[Kristine Hammar](#) "so, you've never had a dog accidentally hit your clicker hand, making it click?"

LOL!! My old mutt, Maddie, used to bop my pocket with her nose when I was using an iClicker and I had it in my pocket!! She never did it when there wasn't a clicker in there - not once. She knew when there was a clicker in there and that she

would get a free treat if she clicked it!!

I miss that girl!

November 24 at 9:28pm · [Like](#) · [4](#)

○

[Leah Mouatt](#) I love this group...its the only one safe enough to ask this question!

Its an.important topic and should be discussed

November 24 at 9:47pm via [mobile](#) · [Unlike](#) · [6](#)

○

[Micha Michlewicz](#) Ginger used to click my button clickers so I had to switch to box clickers!

Teaching “Quiet” to Deaf Dog

[Kimberly Combs](#)

Looking for some advice- I will be working with a deaf pit bull in the rescue I volunteer with I'm really excited... I know the training is pretty much the same and using hand signals- but how to teach a quiet cue? I was thinking the same as a dog who can hear.. wait till dog is quiet and reward.. ignore when barking? Not sure how to put th bark on cue.. since a knock on the door won't have any effect in getting the pup to bark. Thank you in advance



[Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · November 21 at 8:38pm via [mobile](#)

[Sharon Normandin](#) likes this.



[Abby Harrison Melott](#) To teach the quiet, I have waited until the dog is quiet, use a slow hand in a circular motion (horizontal - I think of it smoothing/calming the upset meaning barking situation) and the hand signal for c/t.

November 22 at 3:50am · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Blanche Axton](#) ^^This is pretty much what I've done as well. And I do wonder if the barking for a deaf dog isn't additionally reinforcing as perhaps it creates a vibration in the skull they can feel? this is pure speculation on my part, however. I don't cue dogs to bark, but do work on "quiet" cues and reward quiet.

Puppy Guide

[Leah Mouatt](#)

Im looking for some good articles/blogs/videos on puppy training essentials (like a to do list)...anyone got one?

Top of Form

[Like](#) · [Unfollow Post](#) · [November 17 at 5:59am](#)

[Petrine Musse](#) likes this.

[Michelle Martiya](#) Kikopup on YouTube has plenty of video for puppy training.

[November 17 at 6:03am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

[Leah Mouatt](#) Yes I found that playlist- 58 videos!

[November 17 at 6:04am](#) · [Like](#)

[Ines Gaschot](#) Tena is the best! Check this out:<http://www.successjustclicks.com/puppy-socialization-list...>

[Puppy Socialization List pt 1](#)

www.successjustclicks.com

Puppy Socialization List One of the biggest mistakes people make with their pupp...See More

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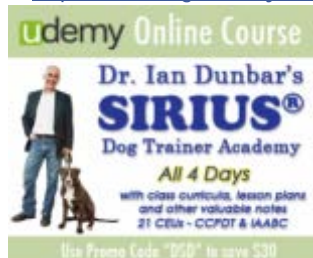
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[November 17 at 1:32pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

[Kate End Bsl Kearney](#) Actually I have a PDF I will upload on puppy training

[November 17 at 3:39pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

[Dewitt Gimblett](#) Actually e-books but free, see Dunbar's Before and After You Get Your Puppy at <http://www.dogstardaily.com/free-downloads>



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[November 18 at 2:07pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

Teaching Others About R+

[Saxon Murphy](#)

So I find many people (on this group) want to educate others on positive reinforcement training. How do you go about this? Do you own any facebook groups/pages? Do you run a blog or youtube channel? Do you let the results from your own dog speak for themselves or do you do best with engaging in one on one conversations with those who you would like to reach?

How do you promote positive reinforcement training? Do you have any ideas on the best ways we could reach people about +R training? Do you have any techniques that were successful for you in the past? In what ways do you try and reach people?

Top of Form

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[Kristine Hammar](#) The main way that I strive to educate others is by the example that I set with my dogs. People notice. I know this because of the things people have said over the years - some direct statements, some indirect, some positive feedback, some negative (in the human sense, not the behavior theory sense).


I do have a blog, which I know you've seen, but it isn't strictly a +R education blog.

I used to try to educate though online debate and discussion, but I have largely stopped that because it tends to become mudslinging (and not just on the +R side) and emotional tirade far more than objective discussion of training methods. I got tired of it and largely bowed out.

November 9 at 12:40pm · [Like](#) · [3](#)

[Karen Borga](#) Great topic.

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

November 9 at 12:52pm via  [Like](#)

[Micha Michlewicz](#) My service dog is a really good promoter of force free, especially when things like last night happen. We ran into two other SDs being worked with force methods/tools and one wanted to tear her a new one and the other one was pulling with all his might to greet her. Ginger kept on working and paid them no mind at all. I also work with my fearful little rescue sometimes in public and she makes quick progress and likes to show off. I also have a YouTube channel and blog. I'm not doing as much R+ promotion as I'd like due to health reasons but hope to make more of an impact in the future. I'm keen on the idea of a service dog org that uses rescue/shelter dogs, but that would be a long way off.

November 9 at 1:30pm via [mobile](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Blanche Axton](#) I work part time as a trainer with DogGone Right!, and I run a rescue. So modeling my own dogs behaviour helps show people. I do post some videos of my training, but not often as I don't have a business page of my own.

And to be honest, I'm careful about how I approach people in the world with their dogs. I know I don't appreciate it when a force person barges in and decides to "show" me their way. So I try to not intrude, but if someone seems to be struggling then I might say "You seem to be struggling. Can I help?" If they've seen me and my dogs in the park then that can help as they know that my dogs are responsive to me without the use of force.

November 9 at 2:02pm · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Stacy Hiebert Greer](#) I don't try to preach it to other trainers, esp those with NO desire to learn it. It only makes for nasty convos. I let people find out on their own or if they ARE open-minded to other ways (like [Ines](#) was!) then I just do what I do and if they have questions I'll definitely be happy to help or let them go to my clients' with me (if that is possible for them).

I promote tons of great training and tips via my dog training business FB page. I have almost 1200 "Likes" on that

page and I have reached a lot of people. Just some random woman the other day messaged me to ask about loose leash walking as she was using some of my videos from a while back and got stuck. I helped her out and she is so enjoying her clicker training!

[November 9 at 4:34pm](#) · [Unlike](#) · [3](#)

Chris Wasniewski I volunteer for a local dog rescue as their behavior and training coordinator. The other people who run the rescue's operations all learned electric collar training from a local trainer (the trainer was one of the only places that would take in current rescue dogs free or discounted for quite awhile). When I first started I got to hear the usual rhetoric and propaganda that these people had been told by the electric collar trainers. Then I started showing them fast results. I don't hear that propaganda anymore.

If you want to convince people of something starting from logical arguments is a waste of time. People aren't convinced that way (there are piles of research supporting this). Start with an emotional argument or start with results. I choose to start with results.

[November 9 at 6:25pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Karen Babcock I'm getting ready to slog back into dog training after taking a break for a few years. I just started a FB page and I give tips and hints to help people with their dogs, but I have found that my dogs have been the best promoters there are.

[November 9 at 7:42pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Lisa G White I talk to my clients, I have a FB Group and Page and I have a radio show.

[November 15 at 4:46am](#) · [Like](#)

Micha Michlewicz [Chris Wasniewski](#), I find that if you start with an emotional argument, people tend to go on the defensive and dig in their heels that much harder. Cognitive dissonance and all that. Do you encounter this as well?

[November 15 at 5:27pm](#) · [Like](#)

Hilary Lane I don't preach, either, but I do add controversial articles and videos--most often promoting R+ on my FB biz page and let people discuss. I sometimes have to remove any nastiness, but I let the discussions go if they're civil. Some of my students have read them and find they are leaning more towards believing in positive training because of some of the articles. I strive to post articles that are rational, make sense, and are not written via an emotional perspective. I also post humor there, to break up all the reading!

[November 15 at 5:33pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Kimberly Combs I have a fb training page- I also am the behavior coordinator for a local pit bull rescue. I have always used positive training. There are some people in the rescue use negative reinforcement with their own dogs. Needless to say they don't like me. I have never said anything to them about how they train their dogs. But whenever I post something about the use of prongs or shocks on either my training page or my personal page they go on the attack. Even though I have never said anything to them.

[November 15 at 7:02pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Can You Swap Clickers?

[Lisa G White](#)

I have a question for CLICKER TRAINERS - I have a new client starting next week and we are going to train two dogs. Two owners, two dogs, two clickers. Does it matter if the owners swap clickers or should each dog have their own clicker always? I find that even if owners use the same clicker, they click differently in any case, some slower, some faster. Does it matter to the dog?

[Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · November 12 at 10:31am

• [Kat Camplin](#) Why would they swap clickers?

November 12 at 10:33am · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Amber Simmon](#) I always use the same clicker regardless of how many dogs I'm working with and it's never been an issue

November 12 at 10:34am · [Like](#) · [5](#)

[Lisa G White](#) Maybe they might pick up the wrong clicker, can't find one?

November 12 at 10:34am · [Like](#)

[Chris Wasniewski](#) Dogs seem to understand the context of the clicker better than that. You won't see any confusion as long as their mechanics are consistent.

November 12 at 10:34am · [Like](#) · [3](#)

[Lisa G White](#) Ahhh, thanks. For some reason (and I must have read it somewhere) I was under the impression that each dog "knows" their own clicker and you shouldn't use another.

November 12 at 10:36am · [Unlike](#) · [1](#)

[Stacy Hiebert Greer](#) Each owner needs to have a clicker but if they switch the specific clicker as in, uh oh I got your clicker and you have mine, it won't matter.

November 12 at 10:39am · [Like](#) · [3](#)

[Stacy Hiebert Greer](#) I use different clickers that have different sounds at my house. I use the Starmark clicker and the iclick. Very different but the dogs don't care and they respond the same to either. A clicker trained dog understands what the click is regardless of what type it comes from.

November 12 at 10:40am · [Like](#) · [4](#)

[Lisa G White](#) Thanks, that clears things up in my mind! How come in a group class, that dogs aren't busy looking around when they hear other clicks and focus only on their owners?

November 12 at 10:46am · [Like](#)

[Kat Camplin](#) [Lisa](#) Because part of the environmental cues is us. Our body language, we're holding the clicker and facing / looking at the dog. If we ignored them and put the clicker down, they'd wander off.

November 12 at 10:47am · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Chris Wasniewski](#) Lisa, you're making the basic assumption that the dog associates only the sound of the clicker with the primary reinforcer. I don't know if that's an accurate assumption. Dogs are very good environmental discriminators. The handler is part of the equation.

November 12 at 10:47am · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Lisa G White](#) As I said many times before, I ask LOTS of dumb questions.

November 12 at 10:48am · [Like](#)

[Amber Simmon](#) I think they're good ones!

November 12 at 10:50am · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Lisa G White](#) I really need to do some reading, sigh.

November 12 at 10:54am · [Like](#)

[Sarah Fulcher](#) Nope, shouldn't matter at all. Good question! A common one, actually. The dogs figure it out in context. I can even train one dog or a group of dogs at the same time with one clicker!

November 12 at 10:54am · [Unlike](#) · [3](#)

[Chris Wasniewski](#) On a related note, when I switch from clicker to verbal marker I rarely if ever have to do any extra teaching about its meaning. The rest of the reward mechanics stay the same and they figure it out very quickly.

November 12 at 10:55am · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Shelly Volsche I use the same clicker, same marker word, same everything when working with my kids. They know the difference, especially if you work them separately in the beginning. In a situation where you have two owners, one working each dog, the dogs are more likely to become sensitive to which owner is clicking than what the noise sounds like. Realistically, you are going to have to do more to make sure the dogs generalize that both owners are worth listening to than having trouble with the clickers.

November 12 at 11:18am · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Lisa G White So **Shelly Volsche**, in this particular case with 2 owners with 2 dogs, is it best that owner A train dog A, and owner B trains dog B?

November 12 at 11:20am · [Like](#)

Shelly Volsche I would start there. Then after a couple weeks, they trade. This way the dogs first, get the game. Then, they learn that both owners play it.

November 12 at 11:21am · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Lisa G White Thanks!! I love this group!

November 12 at 11:21am · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Jen Germaine My only concern is the quality and clarity of the sound. You really have to punch your thumb into a Starmark to get that clear and concise sound, because if you don't it will sound like two clicks instead of one.

November 12 at 12:22pm · [Like](#)

Chris Wasniewski If it makes the same sound consistently then all that matters is that you condition the dog to that sound.

November 12 at 1:25pm via mobile · [Like](#)

Stacy Hiebert Greer **Lisa G White** have you seen this very basic but good video? <http://youtu.be/wv1uvvqaSw>

What is clicker training?- dog training

www.youtube.com

What is clicker training? Clicker training is a way of training animals in which...See More

November 12 at 6:12pm · [Like](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

Lisa G White Thanks **Stacy**, no I haven't seen this one. I really need to go back to watching these videos and reading.

November 12 at 6:20pm · [Like](#)

Sherry Al-Mufti It doesn't matter whether they swap clickers or not. I have clickers all over the house, and at least one in every bag, and every pocket of every garment I own. I have box clickers, and iClicks. What matters is not the clicker, but who is operating it.

November 13 at 1:21am · [Like](#)

Sherry Al-Mufti "I was under the impression that each dog "knows" their own clicker and you shouldn't use another." What you are probably remembering a little inaccurately is that in a clicker class each dog learns very quickly to recognize its own clicker, and is not confused by hearing lots of different people clicking their dogs. It's not the clicker per se that they recognize, but the proximity and location/direction of the sound.

November 13 at 1:24am · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Ann Bemrose I think dogs also recognize very quickly that click=treat and that treats usually come from their own human, not from others very often. Just picking up a clicker--I have several different ones--seems to be a great way to get my dogs' attention if they're within 20 feet of me. It doesn't matter whether I'm using a box clicker, an iClicker or the big blue one with the raised orange button. I nearly always work with the dogs separately, but we do practice some sits, downs and stays together. I use the same clicker for both dogs at those time and that doesn't seem to be a problem for them. When I started with both of them, I would name the dog to whom I was giving the treat. Right away, they understood that naming one dog meant that the other dog would be next.

November 13 at 1:35am · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Rant About Unprofessional and Disrespectful R+ Trainers

[Stacy Hiebert Greer](#)

LITTLE RANT REGARDING +R TRAINING: Ok I admit I'm on that fairly newly formed group with a mix of +R and "balanced" trainers. It's an interesting group, I'll just say that. But the point of my post is that one of the e-collar trainers on there came this morning to state how one of her e-collar trainer friends is getting hateful messages posted ON her Facebook BUSINESS page.

I have to admit. I am not a fan of e-collars for any reason, nor "balanced" training. That isn't my point... But for these so-called "+R trainers" to go onto a trainer's page and degrade her and call her all sorts of names is doing absolutely NOTHING for positive training and it is actually harming our so-called "movement" (if we want to call it that).

I'm incredibly disappointed that any person would feel this is even remotely ethical, professional and/or mature for someone to do. If the trainer has done something personally to a person or dog that one knows about they need to take the matter up privately with the trainer. Doing what they are doing makes me completely ashamed to call myself a +R trainer because they put ALL OF US under the blanket when they act this way and they also change nothing. They only do harm. So, I sure as heck hope it is no one here or on any list I am part of because I'd have to say I was completely embarrassed to know someone that does that.

Go train dogs. Prove the joy and power of +R if that is your goal. Don't demean all the other trainers you disagree with. Just get out there and SHOW them! ...Ok. End rant. Carry on!

Top of Form

[Unlike](#) · [Follow Post](#) · November 11 at 8:45am near [Arlington, TX](#)

You, [Jen Germaine](#), [Sarah Fulcher](#), [Hilary Lane](#) and [17 others](#) like this.

[Ines Gaschot](#) Cheers to that Stacy! It's so unprofessional and gives us a bad name...

November 11 at 8:49am via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [7](#)

[Lisa G White](#) And I've also heard of some well known FFTs who spy and bully others. NOT very FF nor R+ is it?

November 11 at 8:50am · [Unlike](#) · [5](#)

[Danielle Beauregard](#) Sadly, this type of behavior happens all the frigging time. I myself have been a target in the past because I am not extreme enough in my application of R+. These types if people do a great disservice to the dog training profession, period.

November 11 at 9:04am via [mobile](#) · [Unlike](#) · [7](#)

[Monica Callahan](#) Agreed. it also makes those trainers look bad when they spout off horrible things about r+ trainers on their page. As has been happening up here in the northern ohio area

November 11 at 9:05am via [mobile](#) · [Unlike](#) · [1](#)

[Jamie Robinson](#) I don't want to sound negative about this or accuse anyone of lying or being deceitful, however, I was accused of doing this when it wasn't true. The accuser said that the comments had all been deleted but continued to lie about me. Then proceeded to alter something I'd said on my own business page in a secret group to get people to laugh at me and make up even more stories about me.

November 11 at 9:07am · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Jamie Robinson](#) So make sure of your facts first. Check the page, see if the person being accused really is doing that.

November 11 at 9:07am · [Like](#) · [5](#)

Blanche Axton Does it happen? Probably. Is it professional? No. But I've seen what Jamie is talking about happen. And it's not fun. The nasty cuts both ways.

November 11 at 9:20am · [Unlike](#) · [7](#)

Stacy Hiebert Greer She didnt' disclose the trainer or her page so honestly I can't go look at the page to see what she's talking about. And I dont' know her trainer friends enough to dig around!

November 11 at 9:20am · [Like](#)

Karrin McDermott-Semke I hate to say it but dog people can be some of the snobbiest people around. No one should ever be treated in that way

November 11 at 9:21am · [Unlike](#) · [2](#)

Lisa G White People are people in ALL activities, not just dog people. You will always find a clique of snobs, bullies, a\$\$holes, etc, everywhere. I've seen it in dog, horse, cat, boat, ballet, etc. It's just human nature and just takes one bad apple to spoil the whole basket.

November 11 at 9:23am · [Unlike](#) · [7](#)

Jamie Robinson It's hard sometimes though. Humans have a great tendency to read into what they are seeing with their own histories, experiences and dislikes and pet peeves. Too many times I've said something thinking I was perfectly clear yet to have someone come back and slam me for accusing them of something. The written word is dangerous sometimes.

November 11 at 9:23am · [Unlike](#) · [7](#)

Blanche Axton ^^yes. And it can be doubly difficult on the internet to imply tone and meaning. Emoticons can only do so much.

November 11 at 9:25am · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Karrin McDermott-Semke its true hard to read what people really are saying on the internet. things can get taken the wrong way. it happens all the time

November 11 at 9:26am · [Like](#)

Jen Germaine This is deplorable behavior, but not the least bit shocking to me.

A few years before I crossed over, when I was a very green and naive trainer just trying to learn and find my way, I walked into a Brenda Aloff workshop at Marin Humane.

Boz was on a pinch. I was not heavy handed nor did I use any leash corrections, but those women (the minions of Trish King) were on me the second I walked in the door. Five women literally cornered me, all talking at once, and one ran off to fetch a martingale. I was speechless. I was almost in tears, and considered leaving. But I took the martingale, as I understood why they didn't want me in there with a pinch. I was respectful.

I rode out the first day without uttering a word. I was there to learn. I sat in that auditorium as quiet as a church mouse. On the second day, Brenda called me up to the stage. She had been eying me and my Foxy Red boy, who laid calmly at my feet the entire time. She wanted to work with Boz, who was only six-months old at the time.

She did a wonderful demo with him and taught me some fabulous exercises. At the end of the demo she thanked me, and praised me for the "excellent" work I had done with him thus far. She said, "This is a wonderful dog with endless potential, and you have a bright future ahead of you. Don't let it go to waste. Keep doing what you are doing and continue to learn." She hugged me and gave Boz some good lovin'!

As I was leaving, a couple of the minions came up to me and apologized for their aggressive behavior the previous day - ironic, since the workshop was primarily about aggression. They could see that I was new to professional training, and they were regretful about how they treated me. I said nothing.

About three years later, I called one of the ladies to tell her I had crossed over. I reminded her who I was and how upset I was when I met her that day. But I thanked her for her apology. Apart from sharing my news, I wanted her to know that had they approached me with less judgement and more compassion, my journey to crossing over would have likely happened sooner. I also wanted to let her know that I would be referring clients to her in the future, as my business was growing and I needed to send those I could not help to someone else in my area.

That is all.

November 11 at 9:44am · [Unlike](#) · [8](#)

[Karla Wilson Jen](#), it wouldn't surprise me if, between day 1 and 2, Brenda got wind of the "minions' behavior, gave them a "word to the wise" and made her point, and amends in that demo and hug.

November 11 at 9:53am · [Unlike](#) · [4](#)

[Ines Gaschot](#) I wish people would think before they speak!

November 11 at 10:12am via mobile · [Like](#) · [4](#)

[Lisa G White](#) I wish I would stop and reread before I hit enter.

November 11 at 11:04am · [Unlike](#) · [3](#)

[Hilary Lane](#) I totally agree, [Stacy](#) (and with the others who had similar experiences). It's rough out there, and it only makes others dig in their heels and get more defensive if they are attacked. They won't listen to your message; in fact, they'll most likely not. Thanks for bringing it up!

November 11 at 11:09am · [Unlike](#) · [3](#)

[Kat Camplin](#) When I was in the corporate world, one of my better managers would say, "It's never about what it's about," which is usually the case in these scenarios. People are threatened and instead of dealing with the underlying fear, they attack with things they can use that they know will push buttons. It's not very different with dogs

It might be helpful to direct this rant into a constructive discussion of things we can do if confronted with something like attacks on our blog or business pages.

This topic came up recently because a balanced trainer was commenting on a R+ trainer's blog with attacks and labels and negative epithets. Her decision to reward the good things he was saying, ignore the kinda bad things, and deleting the punishing name calling, created a dialog that ended in the balanced trainer apologizing. I'm not sure we all have the time to do this, but in this case it was successful.

November 11 at 11:16am · [Unlike](#) · [3](#)

[Lisa G White](#) Focus on the positives, ignore what you don't like. So easy to say, yet so hard to actually do with people.

November 11 at 11:18am · [Unlike](#) · [1](#)

[Blanche Axton](#) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z45EB4TiYz4>

[Accentuate the Positive - Bette Midler & Bing Crosby](#)

www.youtube.com

From the "Bing Crosby Special" (March 20, 1977)

November 11 at 11:19am · [Like](#) · [1](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

[Karrin McDermott-Semke](#) what is the difference between a balanced trainer and a r+ trainer anyhow? I have never heard those terms used before. again i'm just learning about all of this :0

November 11 at 11:19am · [Unlike](#) · [2](#)

[Hilary Lane Jen](#), I admire your courage for sticking with the Aloff workshop. I'm not sure what I would have done at the time--I'm more mellow and confident now, but before I crossed over, if anyone had said that to me, I would have probably left and never would have considered changing. I think labels are a big mistake, and we can all learn something from every trainer out there, whether what NOT to do, or pick up something new.

November 11 at 11:21am · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Blanche Axton](#) Karrin--generally a balanced trainer uses some (or a lot) aversion and force in their training. They see it as balanced as they use all quadrants.

November 11 at 11:21am · [Unlike](#) · [2](#)

[Karrin McDermott-Semke](#) gotchya! thank blanche

November 11 at 11:22am · [Unlike](#) · [1](#)

[Blanche Axton](#) No problem.

November 11 at 11:23am · [Like](#)

[Lisa G White](#) This is why Ines created this Group, so that those who are interested in R+ or thinking about crossing over, can feel safe and free to discuss R+ here.

November 11 at 11:25am · [Unlike](#) · [3](#)

[Sarah Fulcher](#) Thank you! Fully agree.

November 11 at 11:42am · [Unlike](#) · [1](#)

[Jen Germaine](#) Thank you, [Hilary Lane](#). I thought about it but I had already paid. Although I felt somewhat humiliated, I was there to learn. I sat close to the wall, slumped in my seat, and ate lunch by myself. I don't know if Brenda heard what happened. I never considered it. Maybe... She definitely boosted my confidence. I'm just happy it all ended on a positive note

November 11 at 12:20pm via mobile · [Like](#) · [4](#)

[Hilary Lane](#) Positive reinforcement at its best!

November 11 at 2:21pm · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Jamie Robinson](#) I have had "balance" trainers do this on my business page in the past. One in particular liked to put up lengthy quotes from obscure scientific papers to back his rantings. I just ignored most of it, commented on only the parts that were positive and helpful and often said things like "I wonder if anyone could actually apply all that?" or "wow, is there anytime left over here for actually working with dogs?"

November 11 at 2:35pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Jamie Robinson](#) eventually the "balanced" trainer would either leave with one last sally or PM me to ask why I didn't like their discussions

November 11 at 2:35pm · [Like](#)

[Renée Erdman](#) It's our moral and ethical duty to animals to use the least aversive techniques as we can and rarely is there need. If it is your go to there is a huge problem

November 11 at 2:49pm via mobile · [Like](#)

[Karrin McDermott-Semke](#) you would figure all trainers would support each other and respect the different methods even though we may not agree with them. just like childrearing. I may not do things the way some other moms do but I don't put them down. it's just appalling from both ends that people think it's ok to treat others in this way.

November 11 at 2:57pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Renée Erdman](#) Well kids have a voice, animals don't so causing them pain and standing by saying nothing because some one calls it "training" isn't an option in my book.

[November 11 at 3:37pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

Jamie Robinson Kids don't really have a voice, not like people think they do. Most abused kids are afraid of more pain if they open their mouths. Actually identifying these kids is just as hard as convincing someone that prong collars or head halters will not stop your dog from ever pulling again.

[November 11 at 3:41pm](#) · [Like](#) · [4](#)

Karen Babcock Okay, Renee, what do you think the solution is? How do you approach this moral and ethical duty?

[November 11 at 5:14pm](#) · [Like](#)

Kristine Hammar This isn't a +R training problem, it's a human problem. I have been on the receiving end of some pretty nasty stuff from all-quad trainers. Somehow the fact that they incorporate correction into training makes it OK for them to be nasty to +R trainers? Ummmmmmmm . . . no!!

I'm sick of the +R trainers being painted as the nasty evil villains. Most of us are actually regular folk who enjoy training dogs, teaching others to train in the best way we know how to teach, and - for some - engaging in discussion about training methodology.

It is a shame this happened to your friend, Stacy, but the fact is that the problem with people who behave in an unprofessional manner is not that they are +R trainers behaving as such, but that they are people behaving in that way.

[November 11 at 5:14pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [5](#)

Karrin McDermott-Semke I'm not talking about abuse. Obviously, I don't agree with that with almost 3 kids and 2 dogs of my own. I would definitely step up and report someone if I saw that going on. I would not ignore it.

[November 11 at 5:14pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Karrin McDermott-Semke I think the more proper way of going about it is if you see something going on that is abusive in anyway to report them to local authorities, spca, etc. People who can actually take action on these matters. Someone cursing them out isn't gonna do much but cause a fight.

[November 11 at 5:16pm](#) · [Like](#)

Karen Babcock I read lots of stuff on a variety of topics and yes, being nasty is easy and prevalent. But it seems to really rise to the top in the training community. To the point that I don't want to identify as being a R+ trainer on an online community.

[November 11 at 5:17pm](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

Kristine Hammar "you would figure all trainers would support each other and respect the different methods even though we may not agree with them."

I can't say that I support trainers who use certain training methods (I won't even name any of them - let's just be that general). I can't say I'm fine with what they do or that I don't believe in my heart of hearts that there is a better way.

However, I can treat them respectfully as human persons, and I strive to do so. And I don't do that because I am a +R trainer - I do that because they are people.

Maybe if we all stopped calling each other out to approve of one another and instead focused on respecting people as people - even if we have to agree to disagree on training approaches - we might get somewhere.

OK, off the soap box. This is a major peeve of mine.

[November 11 at 5:20pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [4](#)

[Karen Babcock](#) Kristine, I'm right there with you. There's a huge chasm between not agreeing with someone's training techniques and actual abuse.

[November 11 at 5:20pm](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

[Renée Erdman](#) honestly I think there is a fine line. Seems it overlaps all the time. Hanging dogs, shocking dogs, alpha rolls... abuse. And I personally expose those people that call themselves "trainers" or caregivers and if law allows it report or file complaints. Does that clear it up Karen?

[November 11 at 5:22pm](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

[Karrin McDermott-Semke](#) As I said when I speak of different methods I am not talking about abuse! That I would not respect at all

[November 11 at 5:23pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Karrin McDermott-Semke](#) yes, agree Renee that's unacceptable!

[November 11 at 5:24pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Renée Erdman](#) and I apologize for getting on a "high horse". It just angers me. We are all on the same side here I think against abuse

[November 11 at 5:24pm](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

[Karrin McDermott-Semke](#) yes, we are . we just wanna help make dogs the best they can be in the gentlest methods possible

[November 11 at 5:25pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Renée Erdman](#)

[November 11 at 5:25pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Karrin McDermott-Semke](#) your a sweetheart renee

[November 11 at 5:27pm](#) · [Like](#)

[Karen Babcock](#) I've got your back on that, Renee!

[November 11 at 5:27pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Jen Germaine](#) One thing that has helped me dodge the bullies, after learning the hard way, is to thoughtfully consider how important it is for me to comment on something:

Is my comment going to offend someone? Will it be received thoughtfully and logically?

And I try to refrain from diving into anything potentially controversial after 8:00 pm. Sometimes it's good to just sleep on that first reactive thought. The light of day often brings a new and clearer perspective.

The intraweb is as tangled as we weave it.

[November 11 at 6:24pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Unlike](#) · [7](#)

Reviews of Dog Training Schools

[Lisa G White](#)

Which is better or more recognised being a graduate of the Karen Pryor Academy or Jean Donaldson Academy for Dog Trainers? Both are very expensive, but might consider doing it next year.

Top of Form

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[Blanche Axton](#) I think they both are pretty recognized and equally reputable. Bottom line, some folks won't buy into any kind of +R certification. Pat Miller's Program is well thought of and there are several trainers up here with her certification:

<http://www.peaceablepaws.com/referrals.php?type=pmctReferral>

[October 29 at 11:19am](#) · [Like](#)

[Blanche Axton](#) I've been interested in maybe pursuing this one:

<http://www.casinstitute.com/>

Welcome to the Companion Animal Sciences Institute

www.casinstitute.com

CASI provides comprehensive, distance courses and programs in animal behavior.

[October 29 at 11:20am](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

[Lisa G White](#) I will be doing the CPDT-KA exam in March

[October 29 at 11:23am](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

[Jennifer Dawson Shryock](#) Also check out [Kenyon Canine Institute](#)

[October 29 at 11:33am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Lisa G White](#) Hi [Jennifer Dawson Shryock](#), didn't know you checked out our group.

[October 29 at 11:44am](#) · [Like](#)

[Laura McGaughey](#) I want to do CASI. Very affordable and awesome option IMO. For now, I'm working toward CPDT. If I could afford to go study with Pat, I would! I'd do KPA if I could afford it.

[October 29 at 12:15pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

[Lisa G White](#) For those of you wanting to do the CPDT-KA exam next year, I'd like to recommend this Exam Study Course, quote from Susan Kloefer who took the course - "I know that the course sure helped me. I had read all of the books but I was "all over the place" when it came time to figure out what to study. The course sure helped with my confidence...a huge help for people (me) that can completely unravel in test situations." - www.e-trainingfordogs.com/2011/03/cpdt-ka-exam-study-course/

CPDT-KA Exam Study Course

www.e-trainingfordogs.com

6 lesson CPDT-KA exam study course, 100% online, designed to help you pass the C...See More

[October 29 at 1:39pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

[Sarah Fulcher](#) I really loved KPA cannot speak for JDA as I have not done it The KPA workshops are excellent but I know that makes it difficult for some people to do the KPA program.

[October 29 at 1:54pm](#) · [Like](#)

[Tricia Dunlop](#) Thanks for that link Lisa

[October 29 at 5:41pm](#) · [Like](#)

[Lisa G White](#) It's really good, there is also a FB group that you can be part of, with lots of questions and you can post your answers and get the result with explanations. [Shelly Volsche](#) is really good at explaining and encouraging. And I think you have 15 weeks to go through all the info and revise and unlimited access to the FB Group.

[October 29 at 5:45pm](#) · [Like](#)

[Tricia Dunlop](#) So let me get this straight - this course is purely a supervised study group, then you could sit the CPDT-KA certification?

[October 29 at 5:47pm](#) · [Like](#)

[Tricia Dunlop](#) Duh...stupid comment - it says as much if I had read the above more carefully.....

[October 29 at 5:48pm](#) · [Like](#)

[Lisa G White](#) LOL, np

[October 29 at 5:52pm](#) · [Like](#)

[Sherry Al-Mufti](#) I enrolled in Jean Donaldson's program in part because it is self-paced, and with my day job and other responsibilities I would have an extremely difficult time meeting deadlines, and getting time away for the KPA workshops. I think both have a lot to offer. If you want to talk about Jean Donaldson's program, feel free to contact me privately.

[October 30 at 1:26am](#) · [Like](#)

[Renée Erdman](#) I just completed CASI if anyone has questions

[October 30 at 5:58am](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

Chewers: Anti-Chew Products

[Lisa G White](#)

Back in the day, when I was still a traditional trainer, my 4 month Ridgeback would chew and gnaw everything in sight. War was declared when she chewed up the abdominal board and had the sponge all over the place. When she was sleeping in her crate, I put pepper sauce on everything she gnawed at. When she woke up, she gnawed at the coffee table, I pretended to ignore her, didn't say no, no reaction from me and watched her reaction. She spat, tongue licking her lips and she went straight for the water. After that, she never chewed up anything, I could leave my socks on the ground and she wouldn't touch them. IMHO, she learnt on her own, that these things taste bad. I didn't have to correct her, I didn't have to scold nor smack her. I know that it is an aversive and therefore frowned upon by FF Trainers, but is it really so bad?? It is really wrong to set things up in your favour - giving lots of chew toys, toys, training, exercise as well as spraying unpleasant things? I want to learn, to tell me please.

Top of Form

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[Laura McGaughey](#) I want to hear others' thoughts too! Good topic.

[October 24 at 2:10pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

[Michael McManus](#) This is a good point, another thing is, it's very hard to positively train a dog not to do something. With a case like this, dogs often learn that stopping chewing earns a reward, and not chewing it produces nothing. Therefore the dog deduces that he should chew and stop in order to get the reward.

[October 24 at 2:15pm](#) · [Like](#)

[Danielle Beauregard](#) It is very very difficult to train dogs to NOT do certain self-reinforcing behaviours without letting the "environment" do it for you, if you want them to be reliable when you're not around.

There is a bottle of Bitter Apple under my sink and most puppies get a taste of it at some point. They learn that chewing is bad and there's no harm done. Their psyche will not be permanently damaged. . We've also been know to use upside down mousetraps on the counters for those really determined counter surfers.

Of course, I try to teach pups to chew appropriate chew toys and try to avoid the forming of the counter surfing habit. But sometimes, even with the best of intentions and supervision, these things do happen.

[October 24 at 2:41pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Ines Gaschot](#) Clark has not been a chewer at all. So I am lucky. Personally, I did a lot of management- expens, crating, on leash. Supervised at all times when free- even still to this day. Provided with ample exercise, appropriate chewies, and management, I don't see a need for these sprays. Plus some dogs get smart or don't mine the taste! Lol Clark did rip his first crate up and got to the carpet, not he's in a solid, travel crate he can't stick his tongue/mouth out of. While I haven't used the spray yet and don't plan to, it's not out of my "toolbox."

[October 24 at 2:54pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Michael McManus](#) I tell all my clients, have lots of chew toys around and try to direct your puppy to them whenever you can, but sometimes you have to cover all your bases, especially when the people can't help but give lots of attention (even if its in the form of yelling and chasing or hitting [never advocated by me]) when they dog chews. You have to positively reinforce the people for ignoring the dog too! sometimes the only way is to give them a scapegoat in the form of a consequence for chewing like bitter apple.

[October 24 at 2:59pm](#) · [Unlike](#) · [3](#)

[Jennie Sillence](#) Something that fascinates me is.....Humans have the most complex brains of all creatures, yet seem unable to work out..... 'Put your stuff in a cupboard! don't leave exposed food in reach of the dog!'. We seem

to expect dogs to have a moral code of not touching our stuff. If a baby visits, would we think of leaving sweets around that they could choke on, within their reach? Would we douse stuff, they may put in their mouths, with nasty tastes? These are dogs, who have been surviving by scavenging for thousands of yrs not brain surgeons, or priests/ priestesses with high moral codes of ethics. Put stuff out the way, give them stuff you want them to have, teach them kindly what is ok to chew and what is not.

[October 25 at 5:00pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [5](#)

Micha Michlewicz I really don't mind using bitter apple spray or citronella candles, strong smelling potpourri, (NOTHING that is sprayed AT/ON the dog or something that they can't get away from) etc. for smell or taste aversion, as long as it doesn't cause pain, fear, intimidation or undue stress, it fits my criteria for what I'll possibly use. Hot sauce can hurt the mouth so personally, I wouldn't use that.

This isn't my first line of what I'll try, nor what I'd solely do, but for very stubborn cases where things are dangerous (counter surfing) or people are angry, I'll use it as part of a more proactive and positive plan.

Example, I was boarding and training a standard poodle that was in a bad rescue, he's been confined to a small run for MORE THAN a year with only two short 7 minute trips to a small fenced in fake grass yard a day, where he was just pretty much ignored even then. He'd lost pretty much all house manners and was wild. I don't think anyone would have the energy to keep him completely out of trouble. He was making up for lost time.

Even after full days of mental and physical draining work, he'd still go after the straps that connect the couch cushions to the couch. I couldn't allow him to tear my couch apart.

Redirecting, telling him to leave it, and other more proactive and positive methods had limited success because he was just out of his head. I didn't view yet more confinement as a humane option. Having to confine him when I had to leave the house was bad enough after what he'd been through.

So I took some very strong smelling perfume and directly sprayed the couch straps. Most dogs, in my experience, don't appreciate strong, fake odors. He was no exception. He stopped digging his head into the couch to get to the strap and decided that settling on the couch with an appropriate chew toy was a much more reinforcing option. Which he was further rewarded for by me.

Tethering wasn't a good choice for this dog or this situation since he needed to learn how to live in a house again, which he would have a hard time doing (much of anything, desired or undesired) if he was lashed to my side with severely limited range of motion. Also, lashed to my side, the couch straps would STILL be game.

[October 25 at 8:22pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Clara AndEileen Anderson Lisa, I used bitter apple at the very end of training Summer to leave my stuff alone and chew hers. I felt like since I had worked on Leave It and redirecting quite a bit it was OK as one piece of the puzzle. But your post reminded me of this blog post by Aki YamaGucci who did some beautiful work, including teaching what to chew and what not to chew, with a very difficult dog.<http://bcnerd.wordpress.com/2013/02/06/using-play-to-train/>

Using "play" to train

bcnerd.wordpress.com

This post was intended for dog owners with a high energy, destructive and young ...See More

[October 25 at 10:00pm](#) · [Like](#) · [Remove Preview](#)

Micha Michlewicz Jennie Sillence, the problem is that even remnant smells of food can be reinforcing enough for a dog to counter surf. Or even the CER the dog has developed to the action of counter surfing until extinction has set in. It can take a long time and even the smallest thing can re-introduce it.

It would be VERY easy to abandon one's ethics for a when a correction might actually make sense if executed well.

So if the most aversive someone does is an unpleasant smell or taste, I would have to give them encouragement for not taking it beyond that.

[October 25 at 10:23pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Micha Michlewicz That article sounds a lot like Ruff Love. I don't think the advice is very practical for most people, especially those who just want a pet dog. That's a lot of confinement unless you're almost always available to interact with the dog. And a lot of confinement can just exacerbate issues like destruction.

[October 25 at 10:31pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Clara AndEileen Anderson Micha, you're right that it wouldn't be good advice at all for a pet dog owner. I hadn't thought of that. Also agree that that much confinement is a huge responsibility for the trainer. Just thought that there were some good ideas there. I like it that she teaches him so very solidly what he can have, then actually teaches him in a positive way, with R+ and redirection and deliberate contrast, that there is a difference between that and what he can't.

[October 25 at 10:51pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Micha Michlewicz I agree too. It can be taught without confinement for the most part and she has a lot of good ideas.

Reminds me of when I had to put out mouse traps and the girls kept using them as treat toys.... Had to do several reps of "Leave it" and prevent them from practicing playing with the traps when I wasn't available to redirect. Non-lethal, of course.

[October 25 at 11:07pm](#) · [Like](#)

Jennie Sillence Why were the mouse traps where the dog can get at them?

[October 26 at 4:23am](#) · [Like](#)

Jennie Sillence For the general public it may be the least harmful method they can use. But as trainers it's a no, you should know better, there are other ways, so use them and encourage your clients to look for a better way.

[October 26 at 4:35am](#) · [Like](#)

Lori Adams As an average pet owner, I used bitter apple for chewing on moldings in my home. With 3 dogs, I couldn't watch or crate the offender all day. And I couldn't afford to have the moldings on all the doorways chewed up in my house.

[October 26 at 7:41am](#) · [Like](#)

Lisa G White [Jennie Sillence](#), what are the better ways, if you can please list and describe them please.

[October 29 at 11:26am](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

Saxon Murphy Pippin had an obsession for smelling our carpet in our kitchen that sat in front of the door. It was just this one spot and my mom got mad at me one day because she thought Pippin was going to pee on it (which no dog had so I dunno what he was sniffing on there) so it was either I put him in my room or try an alternative. So I got my bottle of white vinegar and sprayed the heck out of the carpet. He wasn't even close and he smelled the carpet from afar and just waked away. It's okay for management but I would never use this as an actual training technique. Plus I would never use hot sauce as even just a small dab on the tongue can send us begging for water, just think what a big'ol lick can do? When the dog is drinking the water he is working to escape the negative sensation of the hot sauce on the tongue. It sucks because I have done this too. with a smell the dog can easily avoid it and it isn't painful. Even with many sips of water that pain can still linger around.

[October 29 at 6:15pm](#) · [Like](#)

Loose Leash Walking for Large Dogs

[Lois Accardi](#)

How to teach heel in positive way 60 lb dog????? when in public won't listen Knows when in class in doors does good .

Top of Form

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[Kimberly Combs](#) Hi! Since he knows it in class, I would start working on it in your yard with no distractions. Once you and him have that down then add distractions while in the yard. .. once you/him can work in the yard with distractions (start with low distractions and build up). Move onto your street- repeat with the distractions. Also go to a park, work there through distractions. Then as he gets it more and more change your spot for training. Pet stores, parks, walks around neighborhood. hope this helps!

[October 3 at 4:53pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [5](#)

[Letter-j Koes](#) the same as any other size dog (-: don't move when they're pulling because you're reinforcing the pulling. play focus games to make them pay attention to you rather than passing dogs/squirrels. if they are successful at home but not outdoors, it just means they're overwhelmed by the amount of distractions, so you wanna start practicing outdoors but in super calm areas, like your backyard first, then the street late at night/early in the morning, then take them to busier streets, then dog parks and off leash trails where it's the hardest for your dog to keep focused on you. reinforce successes and if they're struggling, return to the previous step with fewer distractions and practice some more until it's 100% reliable. vary your rewards (i'd use treats AND tug of war AND the ball so as to keep them waiting for more fun) and try not to give them the "heel" command when you know the environment is too overwhelming and they won't do it — you don't want to set them up to fail. have fun and good luck!

[October 3 at 4:54pm](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

[Jen Germaine](#) For a super focused heel or loose leash walking? I'm doing focused heeling with a 150 lb, 10 month old Boerboel right now. We started at my client's home where it's quiet and there are very few distractions. We are using very high value food, making sure we do our training seshs before breakfast (hungry dog = motivated dog), and we are using luring with a verbal marker, "yes". We are also using walls, fence-lines, and ring gates (positioned like a chute) to teach him to stay straight. The second he is our desired heel position we mark with "yes" and reward. However, we did not start heeling in motion until we taught him to heel-sit by our side. I like to start that way with good eye contact and focus. Once we get him cued to heel-sit, we start the process of moving forward, one step at a time. Not sure if this is what you are going for, but I hope it helps.

[October 3 at 5:08pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Jen Germaine](#) Also, there are a LOT of ways you can teach "heel". Hopefully more people will contribute to this thread. If one way doesn't work, there are always others to try

[October 3 at 5:10pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Ines Gaschot](#) Obedience heel or loose leash walking??

[October 3 at 5:12pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

[Renée Erdman](#) actually, you can stop and take a few steps backward until the dog gives a loose leash, once leash is loose you move forward again.

[October 3 at 5:16pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Renée Erdman](#) also in combination use the look at me game, when you call the dogs name and he/she gives eye contact, click-reward. So many other things you can do that will relate to your dog looking to you for direction

[October 3 at 5:17pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Rachael Ann Para Remember to break down your heeling into smaller pieces. Like the 1st step click and treat. doing this for a time in short session will build value to start off with you. Also do not do long heeling as that is boring to a dog..so short small parts. The more you can click and treat in fast, organized fashion the more interested you dog will be. Also don't forget to use play to reward your dog in any work. Tug or just playing the way he likes. Always remember if your having trouble go back and start from the beginning and try to keep in simple and clear for your dog.

[October 4 at 9:53am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Lori Adams What reward(s) are you using? (food, toy, functional?)

[October 4 at 12:48pm](#) · [Like](#)

Renée Erdman The movement forward on a loose leash is reward enough

[October 4 at 12:54pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

Lori Adams Interesting, I found that food, moving eventually to praise, worked well with my Golden, who weighs 80 lbs. With my smaller Toller/Golden mix, Premack -- go sniff -- worked better. The movement forward didn't help, they would often move to the side to tighten the leash, so it wasn't a movement forward.

[October 4 at 3:06pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Natasha Audy Keep in mind that a focused (competition style) heel can take a while to train. I started indoors, then progressed to the backyard, the more distracting front yard, and then the street in front of my house. Asking my dog for a focused heel in busy, distracting locations without that foundation work would have set us both up for failure...I found that it took time before my dog started generalizing that heeling could take place in a number of different environments. I used a combo of food and favourite toys and have progressed to environmental rewards (sniffing, getting closer to the bunny, releasing her to play in the snow....) as well as using some goofy, non-toy related play with me as a reward.

[October 9 at 8:41pm](#) · [Like](#)

Clickers in Beginner Dog Training Classes

[Karen Babcock](#)

Using clickers in a beginner of puppy obedience class. How many of you use them and how has the class received them? I have found that most people in my beginner or puppy classes have not been very receptive towards them and that they create a new thing for a novice trainer to stress over. I love clickers and the precision for marking behavior, but most people in my classes end up using a verbal marker like the old reliable (not) "good dog".

[Like](#) · [Unfollow Post](#) · September 29 at 3:37pm near [Arlington, TX](#)

•

- [Margery Cavins](#), [Catherine Adams](#) and [2 others](#) like this.

[Tara Palardy](#) We introduce it but don't push it. We definitely push them in trick class!!

September 29 at 3:40pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

[Kristi Stults Summers](#) I love the clicker since the puppy minds are such sponges and students were very receptive to them. My dogs are all clicker trained.

But a vent about clickers - my dogs were so confused this weekend at a pet expo because petco was handing them out and the kids were running around clicking them.

September 29 at 3:43pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Tara Palardy](#) Kristi - agree!!

We teach people to use click and yes.

[Renée Erdman](#) in our classes at the intro session the clients are made aware that clicker training is part of what we do so it's not really a question

September 29 at 3:45pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

[Renée Erdman](#) what a dumb thing to give to kids or someone who doesn't know how to use them

September 29 at 3:45pm · [Like](#) · [3](#)

•

[Kristi Stults Summers](#) [Renée](#) totally agree.

September 29 at 3:59pm via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)

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[Karen Babcock](#) Tara, that's kinda what I end up doing, explaining what they are and how useful they are and leaving it up to the owner, but for subsequent classes, I'm much more adamant about using them. Plus, the owner is much more on board with it by then.

September 29 at 4:05pm · [Like](#)

•

[Ines Gaschot](#) I introduce it, but don't push it. I have found that people have actually been pretty receptive.

September 29 at 4:06pm · [Like](#)

•

[Lori Adams](#) I don't see the point in pressing the issue. After all, in "Train Your Dog Like A Professional" by Donaldson, luring is used for all the basics, and the clicker is explained at the end. Dunbar also finds luring and such fine for the average pet owner.

September 29 at 4:10pm · [Unlike](#) · [1](#)

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[Jen Higgins](#) I use a clicker in all my classes - only a few people have had difficulty.

September 29 at 4:19pm · [Like](#)

•

[Stacy Hiebert Greer](#) This is me personally... so not sure but MY thoughts are this ---> When the trainer feels strongly that they aren't going to "take" or that people will feel skeptical or poorly about the clickers then the dog owners will in fact feel this way. Once * I * started to love, rely on and understand the clicker better myself I was able to convince every dog owner that I wanted to use a clicker with, to use it without reservation.

September 29 at 4:39pm · Edited · [Like](#) · [1](#)

• [Lori Adams](#) Interesting viewpoint, but I know so many well trained by marker dogs. A good marker marker has to be chosen though.

September 29 at 4:44pm · [Like](#)

• [Margery Cavins](#) I'm all over the map on this question. Personally, I'm interested in sport dog training and sport dog training peeps. I have zero genuine interest in "pet dog" training. Having said that, and as a clicker trainer, I've begun to think that a clicker should NOT be introduced to pet owners unless and until they enroll in some form of dog sport, or a tricks class minimum, and then it should be a requirement, with the understanding that a verbal marker will be useful later on. I just realized that the local "balanced" trainer who "introduces" using a clicker, but then doesn't follow through, has consistently produced owners who believe that they know from experience that clicker doesn't work. I'm wondering now how wide spread this phenomenon might be. I'm thinking, why introduce it at all if the likelihood is that it will be misunderstood or misused?

I took the Puppy Start Right Instructors course through KPA, but I have not taught it (requires an indoor facility). They provide video clip homework for a small fee, which I think would be an extremely valuable learning aid for the students. If I am able to teach Puppy Start Right in the future, I would insist on clickers being used and used correctly, but it would be with the understanding that a verbal marker would/could be used in the future.

September 29 at 5:51pm · [Unlike](#) · [1](#)

• [Ines Gaschot](#) I had a client resist when I first talked about it because she thought she knew what it was.. When I showed her, she was literally like "wow, that is not at all what the Petstore trainer said!" Supposedly, the petstore trainer was making them dance or something with their dogs for loose leash walking and it was way to complicated... My client was relieved and loved the clicker in the end.

September 29 at 6:02pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

• [Catherine Adams](#) I intro marker training. Ask if they've heard of clicker training. I don't have a problem with clicker and use to help my girl through her fears around the house and with boxes etc. I think its allot for the average guardian to have a clicker with them all the time. For most, its not realistic so if I want compliance then I do what works for them and push the issues that I truly believe need to change. They like marker and get it and its not something they can 'fail' at. I work on building confidence and small success with something that is achievable for them. They're not all like meinto dogs. They just have them as pets.

September 29 at 6:49pm · Edited · [Like](#) · [1](#)

• [Amy Bailey-Eckert](#) Newbies have a lot on their minds, holding leash correctly, timing with treats let alone adding a clicker its a bit much so we don't use them in our puppy classes. We go over the basics of them but most of our clients are pet people and will not follow through and like I said have a hard time getting their treat timing ready.

September 29 at 7:23pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

• [Kat Camplin](#) I use them in mine, and people seem to like them, but I also formally teach them verbal markers separately (week 3 or 4 depending on how they're doing,) as well as non-food rewards.

September 29 at 8:22pm · [Like](#) · [1](#)

• [Sarah Fulcher](#) I personally find when given a little bit of foundation and shown the power of the clicker, most people are very open to them. They are in my experience actually easier for a new trainer to remember and use than a verbal marker. People are more consistent at marking, and because they are more consistent and the markers is more consistent the dogs learn better. I never force it, but I do like them to try.

September 29 at 8:28pm · [Unlike](#) · [3](#)

• [Margery Cavins](#) Here's a (conversational - not lecture) quote from Bob Bailey on this topic. " Most pet owners seldom have need for a clicker, in my opinion; a clicker can easily get in the way of getting good behavior. After a

pet owner learns the skill of delivering food, or petting, or a toy, and that owner really wants to do more, then add the clicker. I do think that sometime, down the road, most trainers will learn that the clicker is the most powerful single tool they have, and they will quit beating it to death and learn to exploit it to its highest potential."

[September 29 at 9:56pm](#) · [Like](#) · [4](#)

• **[Karen Deeds](#)** I have been using clickers in my puppy and beginner classes for over 10 years now and it isn't a matter of choice. Granted, I do a lot of associative learning in puppy class and don't use a clicker for that, but do when training behaviors.

[September 29 at 11:15pm](#) · [Unlike](#) · [5](#)

[Susan Makar- O'Hare](#) I used to use clickers in puppy classes but like a previous poster has said, most owners have trouble with the lead and delivering treats. I also found that the older generation were very resistant to it - most just wanted to socialise their puppies and the "technicality" of it (in their eyes) alienated them. Also, in a vets waiting room, the sound of 6 people all clicking away for an hour is very stressful! I teach the verbal marker and show them a clicker and advise them to use one at home - that way the class remains open to all. I do use it in my next level classes though, but still people keep forgetting their free clicker.

[September 30 at 2:02am](#) · [Like](#)

• **[Margery Cavins](#)** With respect to using the lead and the clicker, I don't have the handler hold the lead. I use tethers, waist leashes (which easily convert to a tether), or if it's safe, teach the handler to stand on the lead. There is no need for the handler to be holding the lease in the initial stages of clicker training.

[September 30 at 11:46am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

• **[Lori Adams](#)** I don't have enough hands. One for the leash, one for the treats. Or one for the treats, one for the hand signal, since the hand signal is not the same. Plus I don't have 3 hands, and I am notoriously uncoordinated. I think a mouth click or a short "yep" (much better than a drawn-out "yes") has much the same affect.

[September 30 at 11:59am](#) · [Like](#)

• **[Margery Cavins](#)** I almost never have a leash in my hand. Uncoordinated though.

[September 30 at 1:21pm](#) · [Like](#)

• **[Sherry Al-Mufti](#)** Lori, I do virtually all my training off-leash, but even when I have a lot of stuff in my hands, I can often figure out a way to fit the clicker in there, and if I can't, or if I find myself without a clicker, that's what the mouth-click, and the verbal reinforcer are for.

[September 30 at 1:48pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

• **[Lori Adams](#)** Yeah, the mouth click can be very useful

[September 30 at 3:00pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

• **[Cindy Berg](#)** I introduce it but don't push it, same as [Tara Palardy](#). I want that option open for those that want to try it but for some beginners it is just too much.

[October 1 at 12:37pm](#) · [Like](#)

[Lisa G White](#) I let them know from the beginning that it's clicker training classes and I'm giving them a free clicker (I'm the first trainer in the island to introduce it) and we train with them. I haven't had any problems with people not wanting to use them.

[October 1 at 3:51pm](#) · [Like](#)

• **[Petrine Musse](#)** I started using the clicker three times, dismissing it as too difficult and too fancy-pancy, only when I got a cat and used it to train him (good cat didn't work and luring him would just make him angry), I finally got it. For us oldies who trained in the 80's, when I didn't even use treats or newbies, it is just too much and too academic. I would keep pushing it, because fourth time round I finally got it, and can't do without.

October 1 at 4:16pm via mobile · [Like](#) · [1](#)

• **Sherry Al-Mufti** Petrine, I was training back in the '60's and '70's, and so was well-entrenched in "traditional" training methods. I think it was in the '80's or early '90's that I went to work with and for Judie Howard, who - horror of horrors! - used food along with largely-traditional "correction"-based training. We were sneered at for using food, but somehow we managed to do very well in competition, and little by little more and more people started adding food to their training.

I had no problems starting to use the clicker or other marker, but agree that there is a lot of "academic" information you need to maximize the effectiveness of clicker and other force-free training techniques. AND switching to force-free is a paradigm shift that requires many major changes from mechanical to philosophical to intellectual, to emotional. It's been quite a journey, and it is not one that will ever end. There will always be more to learn.

October 1 at 4:29pm · [Like](#)

Sherry Al-Mufti I haven't taught any classes so far, and just started with my first "official" client. I introduced the idea of using a marker, and offered them a clicker. The husband was luke warm about it, but the wife really wanted it, so I left them with their free clicker. We'll see whether they make use of it as we continue with our work.

October 1 at 4:32pm · [Like](#)