



Training Guide



Clik-R™

Training Tool

Welcome and thank you for purchasing the Clik-R™ Training Tool. With consistent use, you can build a stronger bond and encourage better behavior faster and more positively than with many other training methods. We hope it helps you and your pet to truly — **Unleash Joy™**.

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What is clicker training?

Clicker training uses a distinct sound to “mark” the moment your pet does something right. By immediately following that sound with a reward, your pet quickly learns:

Click = Reward

This builds clarity, communication and trust.

Behavior that gets rewarded gets repeated.

Why use a click instead of your voice?

Unlike your voice, the click is:

- **Unique:** The click only means one thing: “Yes, that’s it!”
- **Consistent:** It always sounds the same.
- **Precise:** It marks the exact moment of the behavior you’re reinforcing.
- **Clear:** It doesn’t confuse your pet with extra words or emotion.

What counts as a reward?

The most common reward is food, but anything your pet values can work:

- Small, soft high-value treats (cheese, liver, etc.)
- Praise, petting, toys or play
- Real-life rewards (door opens, fetch, sniff time)

Take time to learn which rewards your pet values most.

Timing is everything

Click during the behavior you want to reinforce, not before or after. To practice your timing (before starting clicker training with your pet):

1. Toss a ball and click right as it hits the ground.
2. Progress to clicking when the ball peaks in the air.

Training mindset and best practices

- **Choose your time and place:** Train when your pet is slightly hungry. Work in a calm, distraction-free area.
- **Be consistent:** Click only once per behavior. One click = one reward, every time.
- **Stay calm and positive:** Avoid extra talking or movement during training. If you make a mistake, reward anyway and move on.
- **Keep it short and sweet:** 3-5 minutes per session is ideal.
- **End on a win:** Stop while your pet is still interested.
- **Read your pet:** Not all pets are food-motivated. Adjust your rewards if needed.

Teaching the click

The first step in clicker training is to teach your pet that the click means a treat is coming:

1. Click.
2. Immediately give one small treat.
3. Repeat 6-10 times in a neutral setting.

You're building a strong, positive association. Make sure to click only when your pet is doing something desirable. (Like paying attention to you!)

Rule: If you click, you must reward. Always.

Capturing vs. shaping

Capturing means clicking when your pet naturally does a behavior you like. You're catching something they already do.

Shaping means clicking and rewarding small steps that build toward a new behavior.

How to capture a behavior

1. Wait for the behavior.
2. Click the moment it happens.
3. Reward.
4. Once consistently repeated, add a cue (word or gesture).

How to shape a behavior

1. Break the end behavior into tiny steps.
For example: Look at mat, step on mat, sit on mat, lie down on mat
2. Click and reward gradual improvements.
3. Adjust the "goal" as your pet succeeds.

When shaping a behavior:

- Move on to the next step when your pet is successful 7 to 8 times out of 10.
- Avoid getting stuck on one level.
- If your pet struggles, back up to the last successful step.

Common training scenarios (at a glance)

While this guide doesn't cover specific skills, here's how clicker principles apply to a few common training scenarios:

Situation	Strategy
Pet already offers behavior	Capture the behavior with a click, reward, then add a cue
Pet doesn't offer behavior	Shape the behavior with small steps
Pet jumps or pulls	Reward sit/stay instead (incompatible behaviors)
You're in a new setting	Start easy, reward focus and calm behavior

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We're here to help!

For questions or additional tips:
support.petsafe.com