

## Clicker Training – First Steps

### Supplies needed:

Yummy treats, treat pouch, clicker



### Getting started or “charging the clicker”:

- \* Find a comfortable, quiet place for you to sit down and have your puppy nearby.
- \* Load one hand with treats and hold the clicker in the other hand.
- \* Click and treat several times (make sure to click BEFORE you treat).
- \* Repeat this exercise with variations: deliver treats while you are standing, toss treats on the floor instead of holding them in front of your puppy’s nose, deliver treats while you are walking.
- \* When your puppy looks up or pricks his/her ears when hearing the click, you are ready to move on.

### The 3 rules of clicker training (*according to Gina Phairas of Tails and Tots Family Dog Training*):

1. If you click, you must treat.
2. Click only once.
3. Don’t use the clicker to get your puppy’s attention.

### How to get the behavior you want to reward:

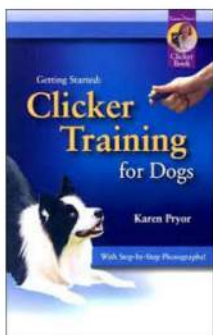
- Catch the puppy during the behavior, click and treat.
- Lure the puppy into position, then click and treat.
- Shape a behavior by taking one small step at a time.

We will talk about these methods in class.



### Clickers can be used to help eliminate behaviors you don’t like:

- \* By establishing a “no reward” signal, like “oops” or “too bad”.
  - \* Positively reinforce an incompatible behavior (a reliable “sit” will prevent your puppy from jumping up).
  - \* Time-outs: Immediately after a misbehavior, turn away and ignore the puppy for 30 sec to a minute.
- These methods of will be discussed in class.



A great book to get started:

Clicker Training for Dogs by Karen Pryor;  
available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for about \$15.