POSITIVE REINFORCMENT

Positive reinforcement is all about rewarding your dog for good behavior, thus motivating them to perform the same command in the future! This is a very strong tool to teach the dog what is right, what is expected, and most importantly gives your dog valuable feedback while learning!

LURING

This is the process of using food to guide your dog into position. Simply use a treat guide your dog by the nose. Keep close contact! Think of it like two magnets trying to stick together! Move the reward in clean gestures to steer your dog into the behavior. You will use it for basic obedience commands, tricks, agility, and more!

⚠️ *Lure, reward, or bribe?* Luring is guiding the dog into position while learning something new. A reward happens after the behavior, once it has been learned. A bride, is when a dog only performs when a reward is guaranteed beforehand.

When luring your dog, it is vital to get rid of the reward as soon as possible to prevent future bribery. The process of slowly removing the lure, or weaning the dog off the reward, is called fading out.

SHAPING

Shaping is the process of taking a behavior, and breaking it down in multiple little building blocks, or steps. This is especially useful for complicated behaviors or sequenced commands. This process is critical when working on more complex behaviors, when sequencing multiple behaviors together, and when fine-tuning performance. The more building blocks you can provide the dog, the better!

Make sure your dog is successful 80% of the time (that's 4 out of 5, or 8 out of 10 repetitions) before moving on to the next step or task.

CAPTURING

Sometimes dogs do great things all on their own. Marking with a click! and rewarding your dog for offered behavior is called capturing.

This tool is useful when manipulating arousal levels, when encouraging impulse control, when working on building confidence, and when teaching commands that cannot be easily lured or shaped (like sneezing, barking, etc).

NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT

This method is used for *fine tuning* commands and to introduce mild consequences in refinement training. A verbal "no" marker is often used. Pressure is applied to minimize unwanted behavior, and subsequently pressure is removed as soon as compliance is achieved. Negative reinforcement is best used *with positive reinforcement.* The dog learns from the removal of the pressure through a variety of consequences:

- Pressure on the leash is applied, dog responds, pressure removed
- Dog is body blocked, dog responds, space is given back
- Active removal of food, attention, toy etc, dog responds, handler re-engages with dog
- Stimulation is held on the ecollar, dog responds, stimulation is removed