



What is Clicker?

What is the clicker for?

It is a tool to very specifically mark the behavior you want your dog to repeat. For example to teach sit you will click the second your dog's hindquarters hit the floor as he sits. The clicker is amazingly effective at quickly communicating to the dog what you want. It is also very effective for marking and increasing brave, calm, and non-defensive behavior!

Do I need treats if I have the clicker? Yes.

The clicker will not replace treats or other reward. To keep the association strong, you should give your dog a **treat for each click**.

If I train with treats will my dog refuse to listen if I don't have treats? No.

Studies show that random reinforcement is actually more powerful than regular reinforcement once a cue is learned well. That said if you NEVER give reinforcement that motivates your individual dog – such as treats, a toy, or praise – your dog may decide that it's not worth it to work for you. *Would you work for nothing?*

What if I don't have the clicker? Will my dog still follow cues? Yes.

Once your dog knows a verbal and physical cue for a behavior the clicker is no longer necessary. Your reinforcement may be whatever motivates your dog: food, verbal, or toy treats or life rewards such as getting to go outside or sniff a fire hydrant.

Why use a clicker?

Because it quickly communicates what you want to your dog. This kind of training (of which clicker is one method) rewards your dog for doing something right instead of disciplining her/him for doing things wrong! This gives your dog powerful incentive to keep working with you and develops trust.

What is most important to remember?

HAVE FUN!

Both you and your dog should look forward to learning through play. Enjoy!