

## **Clicker Training – the Basics**

You can purchase a clicker from any pet shop. Purchase one with a training book included if this is available.

### **Instructions;**

Using a 'Buzz' word such as 'come' in a clear and even toned voice. Your dog will come when called by you to this instruction for a piece of chicken/liver or other tasty morsel.

#### **1) On coming to you he gets a 'click' from the clicker and the treat at the same time.**

This should be done initially when he is relaxed and happy at home. It should be repeated to such a degree (eg at every TV ad break) that it becomes a conditioned response. Each time he is given the 'buzz' word he responds by coming to you for a 'click' and treat.

Once he has mastered this then;

#### **2) Use the 'click' and buzz word together still click and treat together When he reaches you 'Click' again and treat at the same time.**

Repeat this often until he has mastered this in the house 100% of the time daily for week.

#### **3) Now you can try to introduce recall using the clicker outside and in all kind of situations without other stimuli present.**

Repeat this often until he has mastered this 100% of the time daily for week.

#### **4) Now use recall when he's near other people but not too excited.**

Repeat this often until he has mastered this 100% of the time daily for a week.

### **Tips;**

You must always use the same 'buzz' word. Eventually the click will be the only signal needed and you can do away with the word. It may be worth continuing to use the word however in case you forget your clicker one day.

It won't take him long to understand that the 'click' means come for a treat and a pat off of you. I prefer the 'click' to a word as it's always the

same. It's clear and concise and does not change with the emotion of the situation. If you are desperate your tone will change.

**Uses;**

Mental stimulation

Safety / good manners; ie return to you when called

A distraction strategy,

A way to keep excitement levels at bay

To keep the emotional state below the point of disinhibition (excitement or aggression).