



Clicker Loading for Puppies

Before you can use the clicker as a training tool, you will need to create significance for your puppy. This is an easy, fun process that should be effective in a few short sessions. Once you have completed the following steps to “load” the clicker, you can use it to mark the precise moment a desirable behavior is offered from the puppy.

Preparation

Before you start with your puppy, practice the steps below a few times on your own, out of earshot of the puppy.

Step 1: Click

Step 2: Grab a treat out of your pouch

Step 3: Feed Puppy

Step 4: Hand returns to neutral position at your side – **do not rest your hand in the pouch**

Step 5: Repeat

You will need:

- A pouch of puppy kibble
- A clicker

Process

1. Begin by clicking your clicker one time and immediately offering a treat to your puppy.
Remember: do not fill your hand with treats. Click, grab treat, feed, neutral, repeat!
2. Once your puppy has eaten the treat, start again. Click, grab treat, feed, neutral, repeat!
3. Repeat your steps at a steady pace until you’ve fed your puppy 10 kibbles. There is no need to ask your puppy for any cues or wait for any behaviors – you are simply pairing the sound of the clicker with the reward.
4. After you have fed 10 kibbles, take a short break (2-3 minutes) and start over.
5. Each clicker loading session should consist of 3 rounds of 10 kibbles with a 2-3 minute break.

At this point the clicker should be “loaded” and the puppy should understand that every click means a treat will follow shortly. A click means a treat **EVERY TIME**. Even if your timing was off or you accidentally clicked, your puppy must be treated.