



Shaping Hind End Awareness for Dogs

Equipment Needed: Clicker, kibble, stable platform (a book, a thick board, etc.)

The Basics

1. Use a piece of kibble in the hand to lure the dog to place their front paws on the platform. Click and treat for placing their paws on the surface. Repeat three times. Fade using the lure after repeating three times.
2. Use an empty hand to direct the dog to place their front paws on the platform. Click and treat for placing their paws on the platform. Repeat three to five times.
3. Without using a hand signal, allow the dog to offer their paws on the platform. If they do, click and treat for the offered behavior.
4. Practice having the dog approach the platform from different positions (from "Heel", approaching the handler, and from "Side." Click and treat for placing their paws on the platform from various positions.
5. Once the dog is offering their paws on the platform, increase the duration to 2-4 seconds before clicking and treating.

Advanced Steps and Practicing Rotation

1. While the dog stands on the book, the handler should move their hand to the left or right of the dog's nose. Click and treat for them taking a single sidestep. Repeat until the dog can keep both their front feet on the platform.
2. Change directions and practice having the dog rotate the opposite direction. Repeat until the dog can keep both their front feet on the platform.
3. Continue to increase the number of sidesteps the dog takes. Click and treat them for increasing while keeping their feet on the platform.
4. The handler should practice having the dog rotate while in "Heel" and "Side" positions.
5. Once the dog is able to rotate in either direction, increase the distance they rotate to a full circle. Click and treat them for a full rotation.
6. Change the direction of the full rotation. Click and treat for success. If the dog struggles to complete the full rotation, break down the steps into smaller, successful steps and work on $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ rotations.