



Training & Behaviour.

TEACHING A MARKER WORD.

Marker words are a great way of reinforcing your dog's behaviour without having a treat in your hand all the time. It doesn't matter which word you choose, as long as it is short, easy to say and you are consistent in using it. We use GOOD you could use YES it doesn't matter.

Now to start using your Marker word in training we have to show the dog that it means something good is going to happen ie food. Here's a few easy steps to load your Marker word.

Step

1. Start with your dog on lead and about 30 small tasty treats that your dog likes. You are not going to ask your dog to do anything, but you are going to reward anything he does you like. If he sits you say GOOD wait a second, then reward. Do this until your treats run out, up to 3 times a day.

Important: Say your marker word then wait a ½ second before your hand moves to the treat pocket.

2. After doing step 1 a few times then you can start to ask for a simple behaviour like a sit or a down something your dog already knows. And start to Mark the moment your dog gets the behaviour right.

Eg. Command + Behaviour + GOOD = ½ second Reward. Sit + dogs bum hits floor + Marker word = Food.

3. Start to use your marker word to mark all good behaviour that your dog shows. This can be anything like turning towards you on a recall or sitting when greeting you. There is no limit on what you can teach with a marker word.

Remember do not move your hand to the treat pouch or pocket where the food is until a ½ second after the marker word has been said.