



Clicker Utopia! Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1 Fall 2009

A Note from Robin:

Welcome! I hope you enjoy this inaugural issue. My wish is that you will garner some useful information each month.

We humans are learning more about effective behavior modification all the time. It is now widely accepted that using dominating or punishing methods are often counter productive and, at the worst, can be dangerous. The principles of clicker training do not use the old methods of dominance and punishment. The issue is of such importance to The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior that they have issued a position statement on the *Use of Dominance Theory in Behavior Modification of Animals*. Below are the key points of concern.

- Despite the fact that advances in behavior research have modified our understanding of social hierarchies in wolves, many animal trainers continue to base their training methods on
(continued on page 2)

Does your dog Get Carsick?

Some mild, natural things to try.

Ginger Tea

1 table spoon Fresh sliced or grated Ginger
1 cup hot filtered water
Steep ginger in water until water cools and strain, give with eyedropper if needed. Give suggested amount 20 minutes before car ride.
For pets under 15 Lbs. Give up to 1 teaspoon.
For pets 15 to 50 lbs. Give 1 teaspoon To 1 tablespoon
For pets 50 lbs. & over Give 1 to 3 tablespoons.

Ginger Capsules

Open capsule (s) and mix with a small amount of mild broth, give with eyedropper if needed.
For pets under 15 Lbs. Give 250 milligrams or less.
For pets 50 lbs. & over Give 500 milligrams.

Chamomile Tea

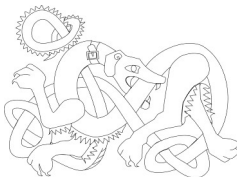
1 Chamomile tea bag
1 cup hot filtered water
Steep tea bag in water until water cools, give with eyedropper if needed.
For pets under 15 Lbs. Give a teaspoon Once a day.
For pets 50 lbs. & over 1 tablespoon Once a day.

Up Coming Doggie Events

October 18, 2009

Biologically Appropriate Real Food (Seminar)
1:30-4:30 PM Redding Library—1100 Parkview
Ave., Redding \$35 pre-registration
Contact: Cheryl Gorewitz 245-1024
canineresq@aol.com

Courtesy of:



**Celtic Cur
Behavior & Training**

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Management Tips

Chewing Tips

Use appropriate Toys:

Kongs © Stuffed of course! Be sure to choose the right size and rubber strength for your dog. And get creative with stuffing. Our dogs love Kongcicles! Easy to do; plug the small hole with peanut butter or another 'paste' like substance and then mix your dogs regular food with a mild broth, spoon into Kongs, place the filled Kongs upside down in mugs or muffin tins and freeze. Give to your dog for hours of cool enjoyment! Check out their web site for sizing charts and even more cool ideas—www.kongcompany.com

Praise dog for chewing his toys!

Do you ever pay attention or let him know that his toys are the right things to chew? Or is the only time he gets attention is when he's chewing an inappropriate item?

Use dog's toys when playing with him.

Make those toys even more attractive – play games with him using his own toys. Try 'hide and seek'.

Redirect inappropriate chewing.

Don't yell or hit your dog for chewing the wrong thing. Calmly take away the wrong item and substitute the correct item, remember to praise him when he is chewing the CORRECT thing! Out of the dogs sight spray wrong item with one of the bitter spray products on the market so the item will correct him for you. (remember that some dogs like the bitter taste!)

EXERCISE!

(Your dog of course!) Teach your dog FETCH – it's a great way to exercise him! Or teach TUG – as long as you are in control of the game. Try going to a fenced tennis court and let him run loose – be sure you pick up any 'deposits' your dog leaves!

Seven More Ideas For Exercise

'Herd' a ball	Swim
Go for a walk	Fetch
Play with a doggie friend	Tug
Dissect a yard sale stuffed toy	

(continuation of: A Note from Robin)

outdated perceptions of dominance theory. (Refer to *Myths About Dominance and Wolf Behavior as It Relates to Dogs*)

- Dominance is defined as a relationship between individual animals that is established by force/aggression and submission, to determine who has priority access to multiple resources such as food, preferred resting spots, and mates (Bernstein 1981; Drews 1993). Most undesirable behaviors in our pets are not related to priority access to resources; rather, they are due to accidental rewarding of the undesirable behavior.

- The AVSAB recommends that veterinarians not refer clients to trainers or behavior consultants who coach and advocate dominance hierarchy theory and the subsequent confrontational training that follows from it.

- Instead, the AVSAB emphasizes that animal training, behavior prevention strategies, and behavior modification programs should follow the scientifically based guidelines of positive reinforcement, operant conditioning, classical conditioning, desensitization, and counter conditioning. (emphasis mine)

- The AVSAB recommends that veterinarians identify and refer clients only to trainers and behavior consultants who understand the principles of learning theory and who focus on reinforcing desirable behaviors and removing the reinforcement for undesirable behaviors.

For the full article please go to:

www.AVSABonline.org

(On the home page, in the menu on the left, click on the link titled: AVSAB Position Statements.)

Thanks for reading! You can contact me at:
Robin@CelticCurBehavior.com

Top 5 Benefits of Clicker Training

Top 5 Benefits of Clicker Training

#1 Clicker training uses your dog's brain for you, not against you.

Once your dog learns that 'click' means 'that behavior is the one that will be rewarded', your dog will do ANYTHING to 'make' you 'click'! So, if you only 'click' good behaviors, those are the behaviors that will be repeated. And **GLADLY** repeated!

#2 Clicker training allows you to use your brain, not your brawn to train your dog.

With Clicker training all the strength you need is just enough to be able to push down a thin metal tongue. You'll never need to jerk your dog's collar to get results. Young, old or physically challenged can all use this method.

#3 Clicker training praises correct behavior instead of punishing incorrect behavior.

Take the dog that jumps up on people. Instead of yelling at, slapping, grabbing paws, or forever banishing the dog to the yard, clicker training teaches the dog what the correct behavior is; sitting and waiting to be petted.

#4 Clicker training creates a clear line of communication between you and your dog.

One of the best things about humans is the emotion they can put into the words they speak. The problem with this in dog training comes when you expected a certain level of a behavior and your dog didn't quite get there. No matter how hard you try to keep your voice praising, your dog hears the disappointment you feel. A 'click' never holds disappointment in its voice, it always says, "Yes, you did it!"

#5 No matter the dog's age, physical condition or breed, he can learn with Clicker training.

Puppies suck up new habits like a sponge, so why not have the habits be good ones? Even dogs that have damaged necks can be trained with the

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Clicker (remember you don't, have to jerk their collar).

Ever heard that a certain breed is not trainable, is stupid or is stubborn? Nonsense! They just won't tolerate the method being used. To date, over 140 species have been trained using this method; such as Killer Whales, Iguanas, Llamas, Chickens, Cows, Pigs, Dolphins, Pigeons, Sea Gulls, Octopus, Goats, Cats and even Humans.

#6 An Extra! Why Clicker training works.

Clicker training pairs the 'click' sound with things that the dog already wants, like food treats or toys. So, quickly, usually with around 20 initial pairings, the dog comes to see the 'click' as a paycheck. (what will you do to 'earn' your paycheck?) Think about what your paycheck really is, a piece of paper. Its real importance is in what it can buy, food, shelter, toys, etc. So the 'click' is for your dog. And your dog will do whatever it takes to get those things.

In the Future

Celtic Cur Behavior & Training is pleased to present:

One day, one topic seminars, coming soon:

Beginning Targeting 1
(Learning to target with nose and feet)

Beginning Targeting 2
(Learning to target with body parts and eyes)

Coming in Spring of 2010

Feisty Fido classes
(for dog reactive dogs)

Please check our web site for details.

If you have any special interests that you would like us to host, please contact Robin.

Our Neighbors

Highlighting a related business

Happy Tails Barkery & Pet Supplies

202 Hartnell Avenue
Redding, CA 96002

In the Cobblestone Corner, South of the Raley's shopping center.

Phone:
(530) 226-9955

Website:
www.htbarkery.com

Hours:
Monday-Friday 9AM-6PM
Saturday 9AM-4PM

Happy Tails is a fabulous place! Locally owned and operated and full of amazing things for your companion.

Let Linda, Tom or their wonderful staff help you decide what dry food is the best for your dog.

Perhaps you're ready to take the leap and start feeding your dog a raw diet, Happy Tails has some great frozen, ready-to-use products. Or get your dog a new toy to occupy him for a while. Has your dog been dreaming of a new coat that will keep away the coming winter chill? Maybe it's time to have the birthday party for your four footed friend! Happy Tails has the cake for the best party ever!

Once a month Happy Tails Barkery hosts a nail clipping clinic and dog massage demos, call the store for details.

Be sure to tell them Robin at Celtic Cur Behavior & Training sent you and get \$5.00 off your purchase of \$30.00 or more!

Next time: Easy Paws Massage with certified massage therapist Kenna Hunt

Jargon Explained

Punishment, reinforcement, positive, and negative; what does this all mean?

Behavior is dependant on two things, what comes BEFORE (the Antecedent) and what comes AFTER (the Consequence). Training is the control of those two things. A cue or command is the antecedent and the click and treat or praise or punishment is the consequence.

These terms are scientific in origin, so the symbols have the same meaning that they have in mathematics:

+ (positive) is Add

- (negative) is Subtract

Punishment (also known as Aversive) makes a behavior LESS likely to happen.

Reinforcement makes a behavior MORE likely to happen.

+P (Positive Punishment) = Dog's behavior makes something bad happen (aversive is added). i.e.: dog jumps up, gets kneed in the chest.

- P (Negative Punishment) = Dog's behavior makes something good go away. i.e.: dog jumps up, person turns away from dog (attention goes away).

+R (Positive Reinforcement) = Dog's behavior makes something good happen. i.e.: dog sits, owner clicks, faces dog and gives treat.

-R (Negative Reinforcement) = Dog's behavior makes something bad go away. i.e.: ear pinch, dog opens mouth for dumbbell, ear pain stops.

(Adapted from trainer Pat Miller, CPDT, CDBC)

Next time: Extinction.