



The Humane Way to Train Say Yes to Treats in Cooperative Training

The Calgary Humane Society proudly advocates and applies effective science-based training methods free of pain, fear, or intimidation.

What is positive reinforcement training?

Positive reinforcement is rewarding your dog to increase the behaviour you want and rephrasing and/or redirecting behaviours you want to discontinue.

Why choose positive reinforcement?

- 1) It's 100% humane, and respects that dogs have emotions! Animal welfare is important to consider in training methods, and reward-based training is healthy for an animal's welfare. The focus is on the positive. Rewarding good behaviours - teaching the dog what to do instead of correcting/punishing behaviours we do not like.
- 2) It allows the animal to be an active, willing participant in the training process (mutual cooperation). It is non-aversive and force-free; meaning it gives the animal a choice: the dog can say no and walk away from training or perform the desirable behaviour and then receive a reward.
- 3) It has zero negative side effects.
On the other hand, training methods that use physical corrections, leash corrections, choke chains, prong collars, shock collars or the balanced style training (stops or reduces the frequency of a behaviour by doing something the dog must find aversive and painful), can have detrimental effects on dogs. These methods mask the underlying behaviour issues and cause long-term side effects such as increased fear, pain, stress, and "shut-down" dog in addition to the onset of aggression.
- 4) It works - its effectiveness has been proven by studies and research in the field of animal behaviour.
- 5) It is endorsed by The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviour.
<https://avsab.org/resources/position-statements/>
- 6) It follows Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) - A Joint Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics in the animal training profession. <https://m.iaabc.org/about/lima/>
- 7) It makes learning fun and enjoyable for both dogs and people!
- 8) It strengthens your relationship with your dog! From the dog's point of view, being around you means good things are happening and doing things for you means they get rewarded.

So grab that treat pouch, join one of our classes and have fun with your dog!

If you have any questions, you can give us a call on our Behaviour Helpline at 403-723-6019.