

# Behaviour

## Charging the Clicker



Calgary  
Humane  
Society

The “click” of a clicker acts as a marker for good behaviour, giving us a way to snapshot the behaviour we want and clearly communicate with our dogs that “yes, this is the exact moment that earned you a treat”. Once charged up clickers hold a lot of value to our dogs because of the strong association we create between the sound of the click and a reward. In order to ensure that the click holds that high value for our dogs we need to first charge it. It is during this process that we teach our dogs to associate the sound of the click with a reward.



## How to charge your clicker

1. Prepare 10-20 small, high-value treats in your pocket, a treat pouch or container.
2. Settle yourself in comfortably near your dog.
3. When your dog is not expecting anything click the clicker once. Following the click offer your dog a treat. This will start to create an association that click = treat.
4. Repeat this process a few more times over the next couple days. You will know that your clicker is charged up when you see your dog start responding to the sound in anticipation of a treat.

## Tips to remember

- In order to ensure that your clicker continues to hold high value for your dog a click should always be paired with a high value reward.
- When you work on charging your clicker the click itself should be the first thing your dog notices, make sure that you do not reach for a treat, call your dog, attempt to get their attention or otherwise indicate to them that anything is about to happen.
- When you are charging the clicker you should not be asking your dog for any specific behaviour. The clicks should feel random, so don't ask for any known behaviour (like “sit”) before the click.

If you are struggling with your dog's behaviour you can always call our free behaviour helpline at 403-723-6019, or go to [CalgaryHumane.ca](http://CalgaryHumane.ca) to book a consultation or join one of our behaviour classes