

LEARNING GOALS

This is a comprehensive course in the basics of modern dog training - “nose to tail” coverage from the basics of learning theory to practical application and problem solving.

Upon completing the course, you will be able to:

1. Use three key techniques to begin simple and complex behavior: capturing, targeting, and shaping
2. Train reliable behavior with a marker and reinforcers, without the need for corrections or physical control
3. Teach new behaviors by breaking them down into small, achievable pieces
4. Identify and choose approaches for addressing problem behavior
5. Replace undesired behaviors with the behaviors you want
6. Select, add and strengthen appropriate cues to any behavior
7. Interpret dogs' emotional states through their body language
8. Fit training skills into daily life with dogs
9. Identify the key stages of canine development
10. Describe what socialization is, why it is important, and how to use clicker training to help build your dog's confidence
11. Describe what marker-based (clicker) training is and why it works faster and better than punishment-based or control-based training techniques
12. Create training plans to teach new behaviors quickly and easily and help ensure your dog's success
13. Practice “clean” training techniques, such as holding the clicker properly, keeping body language still, and delivering food treats swiftly and accurately
14. Identify and use “real-life” reinforcement opportunities
15. Understand the difference between management and training, and know how and when to use each

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16. Understand the fall-out and pitfalls of punishment as training technique
17. Critically evaluate and “debunk” some popular myths about dog training
18. Self assess and improve your training skills
19. Gain a basic understanding of the four quadrants of operant conditioning and where clicker training fits in
20. Make veterinary and grooming visits more fun using clicker-trained behaviors