

Default Stand: Future Sessions

Exercise 3.1

How to Vary Your Treat Placement

In your upcoming sessions, you may choose to vary your treat placement to assess your dog's ability to return to the stand behavior from different positions. You might try to feed off to your dog's left or right side or gently toss the treat on the ground off to the side. Your dog will turn to eat the treat, which sets him up to return to standing in front of you for the next click/treat.

How to Raise Criteria

In later sessions, you may wish to raise your criterion to stand for 1-2 seconds or stand with eye contact. **Criteria raises should be guided by behavior you've seen in the previous sessions with your dog. Raise criteria only when you see the dog already reliably exhibiting the next criterion in your overall plan.** For example, in a previous session, perhaps your only criterion to click was your dog standing in front of you. You didn't expect any duration of time in position and you didn't expect your dog's eyes to be focused on you. While you were training, you may have noticed that your dog offered eye contact for 1-2 seconds in each rep. If so, you're may be ready to raise the minimum criterion to include a glance up to your eyes (eye contact without any duration). On the other hand, if you observed no eye contact or only a few glances at you, it's not time to expect any eye contact criterion just yet.

TRAINING STEPS

Here are example training plan steps for a session in which you raise the stand criterion to include eye contact. We've inserted the training steps below into the overall structure of your session.

1. Bring to starting position
2. Train for 30s to 1 minute: click /treat for eye contact
 - **Warm up: click / treat for stand.** Warm up a few quick reps of your previous criterion: simply c/t for standing in front of you. Deliver treat to the ground.

- **Raise criterion: click/treat for eye contact.** Wait one second after your dog finishes a treat. Your dog will likely glance up at you to see if you are going to click/treat. When he does, click this moment of eye contact.

3. Break
4. Return to crate

TRAINING IN NEW LOCATIONS

When you have judged (via data and observation) that your dog reliably offers the goal behavior, try answering these questions:

1. What location were you in for most of the repetitions for this training? If you were always in the same place, how does that change your conclusion that he “understands” what behavior is being clicked?
2. If you wanted to further refine his understanding of the captured behavior, what are some subsequent training sessions you might do?
3. In doing those subsequent training sessions, what would you predict for the number of C/Ts per minute: an increase from the last session, the same rate of reinforcement, or a decrease?

NEW SITUATIONS: CONDUCT ADDITIONAL TRAINING SESSIONS

1. Complete several additional training sessions based on your conclusions from Things To Consider! Use a fresh Rate of Reinforcement Worksheet.
2. Work each situation until you have achieved about 10-15 C/Ts per minute (on average).
3. Review, calculate, and plot the rate of reinforcement as before.

Congratulations! You’ve raised criteria (systematically and successfully!) You’ve also started the process of generalizing the behavior to new environments! Well done!