

# Capture a New Behavior (Lip Lick)

## Exercise 3.2

Welcome to your next training activity! This exercise will help you develop the skill of capturing a high frequency offered behavior – a lip lick. This is a challenging behavior that will hone your observation and clicker timing skills.

Every time your dog eats a treat, he will naturally lick his lips after consuming the treat. You can capture this natural lip licking by clicking / treating for each lip lick that occurs after consuming a treat. Lip licks happen quickly, so you'll need to keep your eyes peeled for the behavior and your clicker hand ready to go!

Review the Capturing Behavior: Lip Lick slides in Lesson 3 of the online course before you begin training.

## Video requirement

**Regional KPA students:** You will demonstrate this behavior in Workshop 1. A video submission is not required.

**National / World KPA students:** This behavior is on your list of required video submissions. To take full advantage of your faculty instructor's feedback, send this video as soon as possible.

## You'll need

Dog (clicker-savvy)  
Clicker and treats  
Stopwatch or timer  
Rate of Reinforcement Worksheet (at least 2 copies)

## Learning Goals

**You will focus on developing these key skills from Lesson 3:**

- How to prepare / arrange the training environment
- How to structure your session: short, timed intervals with clear start and end points
- How to plan your training steps

- which starting position will make the goal behavior likely to occur?
- which specific behavior will you click / treat?
- what is your strategy for treat placement and delivery (give, toss, drop)?
- How to observe, mark, and reinforce offered behavior
- How to track progress through data collection and review

## Prepare for your session

- Place your dog in his crate while you prepare for your session. For the purposes of this course, you'll use your crate as your dog's rest station before and after short training sessions. You'll use your crate in this manner during the in-person workshop(s) as well.
- Reduce potential for distraction by closing doors or crating other animals.
- Ensure you have clicker, treats, video camera and any other essential items in place.
- Prepare and pre-count 20-30 soft, pea-sized treats. Place them in your treat bag.
- Set up a timer to keep each training session within 30s to 1-minute time interval.

## Structure your session

Here's the sample structure for you to use in this course.

1. **Bring to starting position.** Guide your dog from his crate into a starting position in front of you. Deliver a treat to the ground or directly to your dog's mouth.
2. **Train.** One session of 30s to 1 minute.
3. **Break.** Celebrate with a few treats and / or any interaction your pup enjoys! *Ending a training session abruptly can inadvertently punish a dog. Be mindful of this and end each session with a fun and engaging interaction with your dog.*
4. **Return to crate.** Guide your dog back to his crate and provide some treats. Now you can review your video and plan the next session.

## Plan your training steps

**What is the specific behavioral criterion you'll click/ treat?**

- In the early stage of training, you'll click for the quick lip lick that occurs just after your dog swallows a treat.

**Is there a starting position that will make it easy for your dog to offer the behavior?**

- If you guide your dog into a stationary starting position like a lie down or sit, he'll be more likely to remain stationary, giving you the best opportunity to see and capture the lip licks.
- If you start the session by giving your dog a treat, you'll be able to click / treat a lip lick right away!

**Where will you deliver the treat?**

- To mouth: delivery right to your dog's mouth might give you the best vantage point to view the next lick.

## Prepare to track progress

**Familiarize yourself with these worksheets and the data collection chart below:**

- a. Rate of Reinforcement Worksheet: Sample and Instructions
- b. Rate of Reinforcement Worksheet (blank)

____seconds ____treats Date: Goal for the session: Criteria for the session: Did dog meet criteria: Things that I did well: Things that went well for my dog: Plan for my next session:
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## It's training time!

We've provided an initial training plan for you (below) and inserted it into the overall structure of your session.

**Start your camera and timer for your first 30s to 1-minute session.**

1. Bring to starting position (a sit or lie down in front of you). Deliver a treat to dog's mouth.



2. Train for 30s to 1-minute
  - **Click / treat for lip lick.** After he swallows that first treat, he’s likely to lick his lips. Click the lick. Deliver treat.
  - **Repeat for duration of 30s to 1-minute session.** After he swallows the previous treat, he’s likely to lick again! Click / treat.
3. Break
4. Return to crate

**Great job! Now it’s time to review your video and record the data from your session.**

## Track progress: data review

Review your video to gather your data. Fill out the chart below. You’ll use this information to plan your next session.

_____seconds _____treats
Date:
Goal for the session:
Criteria for the session:
Did dog meet criteria:
Things that I did well:
Things that went well for my dog:
Plan for my next session:

Record the number of C/Ts and session duration on the Rate of Reinforcement Worksheet and include a brief description of the behavioral criterion you are clicking.

## Plan your next session

Now you can think about what worked well in that session and what you may like to adjust for your next session. In the next few sessions, you’ll likely want to stick with your current criterion (natural lip lick after swallowing treat). Use your rate of reinforcement worksheet to help you determine when your dog is successful with the current criterion. Stick at this current criterion until you see your dog reliably *offer* a deliberate lip lick after each click/treat. In upcoming sessions, you can raise the criterion to from natural licks after swallowing to deliberate, bigger lip licks *offered by your dog in order to get the click/treat!*

## It's training time!

Conduct 2 additional 30s to 1-minute training sessions with breaks in between.

## Track progress: data review

Review your videos and track progress in the chart below for each session. Record the number of C/Ts and session duration on the Rate of Reinforcement Worksheet

___seconds ___treats Date: Goal for the session: Criteria for the session: Did dog meet criteria: Things that I did well: Things that went well for my dog: Plan for my next session:
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1. Review the numbers recorded on the Rate of Reinforcement Worksheet for your first three sessions.
2. Calculate the rate of reinforcement for each session as the number of C/Ts divided by the duration in minutes.
3. Plot the rate of reinforcement for each session on the worksheet graph. To find the appropriate box to mark for a session: identify the session number along the bottom edge ("Session") of the graph; identify the number of C/T's per minute along the left edge ("Rate of Reinforcement") of the graph; mark the box where the "Session" column and "Rate of Reinforcement" row intersect.
4. Prediction: Before doing any more training sessions, make a prediction based on your graphs. If your dog is becoming aware of what you are clicking for, would you expect the number of C/Ts to increase from the last session, stay the same, or decrease?

## It's training Time!

Conduct 3 additional 30s to 1-minute training sessions with breaks in between.

## Track Progress: Data Review

Review your video and track progress in the chart below for each session.

seconds	treats
Date:	
Goal for the session:	
Criteria for the session:	
Did dog meet criteria:	
Things that I did well:	
Things that went well for my dog:	
Plan for my next session:	

1. Review, calculate and plot the rate of reinforcement on the worksheet for the second series of sessions.
2. Compare the results with your prediction. Did the rate of reinforcement increase, stay the same or decrease?
3. What is your conclusion? Is your dog learning what behavior is making you click? How can you tell?

Congratulations! You're ready to add a cue to this behavior in exercise 3.3!