

Name That Behavior (Lip Lick)

Exercise 3.3

Welcome to your next training activity! This exercise will help you develop the skill of adding or attaching a cue to a high frequency offered behavior – the lip lick you trained in Exercise 3.2.

We add a cue to a behavior when the offered response is happening with such predictability that we can easily tell when the dog will offer the next repetition of the behavior. You ended Exercise 3.2 Capture a New Behavior: Lip Lick at this point. Now you're ready to add a cue to the behavior!

In clicker training we use the word *cue* instead of *command* to indicate the name for a behavior. As trainers, we talk about giving our learners cues rather than commands. A cue is an opportunity for reinforcement, whereas a command tends to mean "you must do this right now."

Review the Naming Behavior: Cues slides in Lesson 3 of the online course.

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
- How to plan training: how and when to cue behavior
 - give “clean” cue: treat hand motionless at neutral position and body still
 - give cue before learner offers behavior
- How to observe, mark, and reinforce offered behavior
- How to track progress through data collection and review

Prepare for your session

- Choose a cue for your dog’s lip lick behavior. We’ll use the cue “Cookie” in the training steps listed here, but please substitute your chosen cue when you do this exercise.
- Place your dog in his crate while you prepare for your session.
- 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.
- Set up a timer to keep each training session within 30s to 1-minute time interval.

Structure your session

Here’s the sample structure you should be familiar with from previous exercises.

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.
1. **Train.** One session of 30s to 1 minute.
2. **Break.** Celebrate with a few treats and / or any interaction your pup enjoys.
3. **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 cue training

When will you cue the behavior?

- Give cue “cookie” before your dog offers the lip lick. Right after he swallows the previous treat is typically good timing!

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

- A deliberate, full lip lick

How will you start the session so that it’s easy for you to deliver the cue and likely your dog will offer the behavior?

- If you start the session by giving your dog a treat, you’ll be able to give the cue right after he swallows that first treat!

Where will you deliver the treat?

- Delivery right to your dog’s mouth might give you the best view of the lip licks.

What will you do if your dog offers a lick before you give the cue?

- At this stage of the exercise, c/t anyway. In this very early stage of training, it’s important to keep your rate of reinforcement high. Try again with your focus on delivering the cue before he offers the behavior. Pay close attention to your dog so you can say the cue prior to the offered behavior on the next repetition.

Prepare to track progress

Familiarize yourself with the Cue Success 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:

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. Get ready...
2. Train for 30s to 1-minute
 - Give cue "cookie" before he offers the lip lick. Right after he swallows the previous treat is typically good timing!
 - Click / treat for lip lick.
 - Cue "cookie" after he swallows the previous treat / before he offers the behavior.
 - Click / treat for lip lick. Repeat for 30s to 1minute.
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:

Use the Cue Success Worksheet to track and plot the number of successfully cued responses over several sessions.

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!*

Great job! You are well on your way to adding a cue to this behavior! You'll continue to hone this skill and teach your dog to wait for cues as you progress through the course.