



**Dog Trainer Professional Program  
Workshop 3 – Written Assessment  
Solving Behavior Problems | Clicker Style**

**Instructions:**

Create a training plan to resolve the assigned problem behavior by using the tools and techniques learned in Lesson 16. Select and use one or more foundation behaviors in order to establish a new, desirable behavior to replace the unwanted problem behavior.

**Assigned problem behavior:** Vito (dog) places front paws on kitchen counter to sniff cat

**Background Information:** Vito is let out of his crate and secured in our kitchen when we are in the room with him. The cats have free roam of our home, and will jump on the kitchen counter to join the family in the kitchen and look out windows to backyard and garden area.

**Antecedent:** Cat jumps on kitchen counter

**Behavior:** Vito (dog) places front paws on kitchen counter to sniff cat.

**Consequence:** Cat hits nose with paw

**Prediction:** Vito will place front paws on kitchen counter with increased in frequency.

**Replacement behavior:** Vito will lay down on dog bed in kitchen

**Background Information:** Vito is let out of his crate and secured in our kitchen when we are in the room with him. The cats have free roam of our home, and will jump on the kitchen counter to join the family in the kitchen and look out windows to backyard and garden area. When a cat jumps on the counter, BEFORE Vito tries to sniff them, the below ABC will occur.

**Antecedent:** Laura gives the verbal cue of “relax”

**Behavior:** Vito lays down on dog bed

**Consequence:** Laura will click and reinforce with treats

**Prediction:** Vito will lay down on dog bed with increased in frequency.

### Additional training plan notes for replacement behavior strategies and application:

1. Minimize distractions: practice cueing “go to mat” behavior when the cats are not in the kitchen.
2. Plan short sessions (10-15 c/t’s) throughout the day to establish a positive reinforcement history with the replacement behavior.
3. Integrate capturing, targeting, and shaping with the go to mat behavior in other rooms to slowly increase distractions, duration, and distance while the cats are safely resting on staircase.
4. Teach other family members the new replacement behavior protocol for consistency.
5. Use high value treats when practicing the replacement behavior protocols.
6. Integrate a high rate of reinforcement while also relaxing the criteria for each click-point contingent on closer proximity to our cats.
7. After each training session (weather-permitting), open the back door to let Vito run to the backyard for play time with family members.
8. Practice **TACOS**/foundation behaviors:
  - a. **Targeting**: use of dog beds as targets in various rooms of home.
  - b. **Attention**: click and reinforce Vito when he offers looking toward me in the presence of the cats at a distance.
  - c. **Cue a behavior**: practice cueing dog bed behavior and other behaviors while integrating the “3 D’s” of the cats’ presence and proximity to Vito.
  - d. **Offer behavior**: click and reinforce Vito for offering any desired other behavior in the presence of the cats.
  - e. **Stationing/Settle on Mat**: click and reinforce stationing with the slow introduction of proximity to cats while interspersing settle on the mat.