LEARNING GOALS

Specific benefits of this course are its comprehensive coverage of the theory, skills, and application of positive reinforcement training, including the knowledge and skills to tackle training requirements for basic household training, solving common behavioral issues, participating in canine sports, applying useful husbandry skills and more. The course also provides a good introduction in learning to assist others with their training.

Upon completing the course, you should be able to:

1. Explain why training is important to an individual animal's welfare
2. Define clicker training and describe the clicker training process
3. Describe the key features and benefits of clicker training
4. Describe the history and the science behind clicker training
5. Learn creative analogies to help others understand clicker training and its benefits
6. Establish home base positions for treat hand and clicker hand
7. Observe the animal closely
8. Use the clicker to mark the desired behavior as it is occurring
9. Define capturing and cue
10. Explain the role of capturing in clicker training
11. Capture specific movement in an animal without luring or prompting
12. Add a cue to a captured behavior
13. Create a shaping plan for any behavior
14. Select appropriate criteria
15. Track improvements and success rates
16. Observe and mark behavior incrementally
17. Maintain a high rate of reinforcement
18. Shift goals and criteria creatively
19. End shaping sessions on a high note
20. Attach a cue to a new behavior
21. Deliver a clear, consistent cue
22. Transfer a cue to a new cue
23. Generalize cues to new people and environments
24. Define and test for stimulus control

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25. Choose appropriate targets for various tasks and species
26. Fade and transfer targets to other cues as needed
27. Use targeting to move animals from place to place
28. Use targeting to teach cooperation in medical procedures and grooming
29. Teach targeting skills to pet owners to facilitate timing, raising criteria, and using cues
30. Use targeting to overcome fearful behavior
31. Observe cue responses and assess precision, latency, and speed
32. Create and use a shaping plan to teach consistent and precise behavior
33. Understand how to shorten latencies and make low latencies part of the overall repertoire
34. Describe and use several procedures for increasing the speed of movement or execution of a behavior
35. Identify key signs of a relaxed behavior in a dog
36. Identify key signs of stress-related behavior in a dog
37. Use observational skills to assess the emotional behaviors of individual dogs or dogs in a group
38. Use observational skills to assess dog-handler relationships
39. Define a behavior chain
40. Recognize behavior chains and their uses in performance and daily life
41. Use cues to reinforce behaviors
42. Use cues to link behaviors in a chain
43. Develop behavior chains
44. Train and maintain behavior chains
45. Approach teaching challenges from a new perspective
46. Apply clicker training principles to human students
47. Understand the benefits of using a tag instead of language

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48. Define learning goals and break skills down into tag points
49. Employ TAGteach foundation skills to deliver clear information to students
50. Identify positive reinforcers to use with your students
51. Design and implement training plans to introduce distractions, increase duration, and increase distance of behaviors in a methodical, step-by-step manner
52. Maintain stationary and moving behaviors in the face of increasing distractions
53. Extend the duration of both stationary and moving behaviors
54. Extend the distance from which your animal will respond to cues
55. Understand and identify problems with cues
56. Explain the concept of poisoned cues and how to avoid and fix these
57. Identify and eliminate the causes of broken chains
58. Eliminate superstitious behavior associated with cues and chains
59. Recognize the common behavior issues relevant to pet dog owners
60. Recognize foundation behaviors and manners training that will promote desirable behaviors
61. Identify cues and reinforcers for the most common pet dog behaviors that owners want to modify
62. Apply operant and classical conditioning principles for changing and maintaining behavior
63. Employ TAGteach principles when teaching pet owners
64. Explain TAGteach to students
65. Integrate TAGteach into existing classes/programs
66. Learn about advanced cueing concepts: compound and modifier cues
67. Teach a pair of opposite behaviors
68. Teach a 5-part behavior chain