

## MARKER TRAINING

Marker training is the process of using a sound such a spoken word or click to tell the dog he did something right. The dog will be rewarded each time the sound is used to reinforce the positive behaviour.

### **1. Think of your marker word as a contract with your dog.**

You solemnly swear that you will reward your dog each and every time you say your marker word.

No exceptions!

### **2. Choose a great Marker Word.**

Choose a short, snappy word such as YES! or YIP!

Or you can use a clicker which makes a consistent click sound.

### **3. Make the Marker Word Mean Something to Your Dog**

Say your Marker Word and quickly reward your dog with a treat.

Your dog won't understand at first but will soon learn that the "Yes" is a great word and will be followed by food reward.

### **4. Start using your Marker Word in Your Training.**

Cue a behaviour, such as sit and when your dog sits, say your marker word and then reward your dog.

Your dog will be motivated to learn.

### **5. Timing is CRITICAL**

Say your marker word exactly when the dog performs the behaviour.

For example, when your dog sits you would say "Yes" at the EXACT moment your dog's butt touched the floor. Then reward.

### **6. Using a Keep Going Signal**

Once your dog knows a task, such as sit, we won't want to reward with food every time.

We can use an alternate word "Good" for example, to praise the dog without needing to reward with food. Make sure to use an upbeat tone of voice.