



# BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DOG TRAINING

TTU ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CLINIC

## Positive reinforcement

When training our dogs, it is important that we are always using positive reinforcement methods. This means, rewarding our dogs for performing a wanted behavior. This will increase the likelihood of repeating this good behavior and support long-term learning.

## How do we shape a behavior?

We can “shape” a behavior by breaking it into smaller, more achievable steps. Every time our dog takes a step in the right direction of our desired behavior, we reward them. Over time, we can build up these smaller steps into a longer behavior pattern without confusing our dog.

## What is luring?

Luring is simply directing our dogs into a desired position or behavior using something they find rewarding. Our goal is to move away from needing a treat lure into our hand directing, to no direction needed at all. However, luring is helpful in the early stages to help positively guide our dogs.

## Let's mark that!

You will want to choose a short, brief word or sound that can be used to tell our dog - “that was right!” Some people use a clicker but using words like “yes” can be just as helpful. Once our dog performs the final part of the desired behavior (for example: their bum touches the ground fully when doing “sit”), we mark the correct behavior with a click or a “yes” followed by a rewarding item such as a treat.

## Check out these helpful resources!



## CONTACT US!



TTU-ABC@TTU.EDU



<https://bit.ly/ABCTTU>



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

