

clinician's brief

Clicker Training for Shelter Puppies

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In the literature

Dorey NR, Blandina A, Udell MAR. Clicker training does not enhance learning in mixed-breed shelter puppies (*Canis familiaris*). *J Vet Behav*. 2020;39:57-63.

FROM THE PAGE...

This study investigated the efficacy of 3 positive reinforcement methods (ie, food reward only, clicker reinforcement followed by food reward, praise reinforcement followed by food reward) in the training of training-naïve shelter puppies.

A previous study showed that positive reinforcement (ie, offering a reward for a correct response to a command) is associated with the development of fewer unwanted behaviors in dogs.¹ Pet owners are typically more comfortable using reward-based training. Use of clickers has also become

(eg, praise) with the same enthusiasm as to food rewards, this is likely the exception.

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Secondary reinforcers may be more successful when used in the training of older dogs.

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