

# Reward Training

The quickest and most successful of all training methods is positive/reward training. Imagine going to work and your employer asking you to learn a whole new repertoire of difficult tasks and being paid with a pat on the shoulder! An exclamation from your boss such as, “Good Job, way to go!” would not do much for you after a while – would it?



Dogs are by nature predators, they are instinctually driven to pay attention to food. It is a primary reinforcer. If they will work for food AND it gets their attention, why not use it? Dogs are also more likely to repeat what they are being rewarded for...so reward, reward, reward!

Try to do your best to look at it from your dog’s point of view when choosing rewards for your dog. You may really like the pink, fluffy squeaky toy – but your dog always pays attention to the tennis ball. Which one would be better for training? The same goes for food rewards. Most dogs could easily wear a sign stating “Will Work for Food”. So pick an edible treat that attracts your dog’s nose (especially in mildly distracting situations) and therefore his brain! Most dogs do fine with a yummy smelling training treat, but some need a little more enticement such as chicken, hot dog or cheese. And some do absolutely fine with an allotment their daily kibble used for training. Chose a treat and a toy that gets your dog’s attention and use it for training sessions at home and at the training center.

Mealtimes are great times for working on training exercises – such as sit, down, wait etc... What better reward can your dog receive than an entire bowl full of food! Woo Hoo JACKPOT!! Feeding your dog on a schedule will help in manners training, potty training, leadership training and not to mention giving you a healthy properly fed dog and a dog who can maintain his ideal weight.

## Treat Suggestions:

- § Low-fat processed cheese Liver Treats
- § Commercial Training Treats
- § Squeeze Cheese
- § Chicken Breast
- § Hot Dog Slices
- § Regular Dog Food

## Attention Toys and Edible Chews:

- § Food Stuffed Toy – Kong, Busy Buddies
- § Chew Stick – all natural
- § Squeaker Ball
- § Nylon Bone
- § Fleece Toy

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