

ESTABLISHING CUES - AND CLARITY!

*'Okay' is used so often in everyday 'chat' and isn't the best for a release or permission cue

* 'sometimes is anytime' to a dog - be clear and consistent for sharp, immediate behaviors.

Tones' help differentiate cues, so consider HOW you say each cue. (revised Oct 18, 2022)

CUE	Criteria <i>(exactly what the behavior looks like)</i>
<u>MARKER CUE</u>	
YES! <i>(Yes, Good Boy)</i>	a short, sharp word used while training, to let dog know quickly, that his behavior was great (replaces a clicker) It is the promise of reinforcement coming - but could be any kind of reinforcement, placed at any number of positions, based on what you are teaching at any given time!
<u>SIGNAL BEHAVIOR 'CUES'</u> <i>(no words, just 'environmental' cues or body language!)</i>	
Hand on door <i>(crate, house, car or gates)</i>	sit' at the door when I put my hand on the door frame, BREAK releases them to go out on their own or to follow me when I go out
Collar comes out	dogs sit to have collar put on
Leash comes out	dogs sit to have leash clipped on
Loose Leash Walk, with automatic 'sit'	leash goes on, we walk, stays at my side, sits automatically (without 'cue' when I stop) Holds 'sit' until I say 'Let's Go'
Doorbell or Knock	dogs go their place (the door bell or knock is the cue to 'Hop it Up')
When preparing food in the kitchen	Dogs stay out of the kitchen, on their 'place'
When getting their food ready	Dogs on their 'place'. (called to their bowls with permission cue for mealtime - 'Get It')
Walking Down or Up Steps	dogs stay behind you - safety first, impulse control
<u>CONTROL (OBEDIENCE) CUES</u>	
THEIR NAME	Recall: come to me and sit in front of me, allow me to reach for, hold your collar and clip on your leash
<i>(IMPORTANT: use their name ONLY as a Recall, and use nicknames, etc in everyday 'chat')</i>	
"WOO-WOO"	Recall: come to me and sit in front of me, allow me to reach for, hold your collar and clip on your leash
NAME, & 'WOO-WOO'	Used for Recall in URGENT situation only, to create 'double whammy' for absolutely quick, life-saving recall!
'PEEK'	attention getting cue, meaning look at me (reinforce with treat hand going to eyes then delivering treat)
LET'S GO	informal, pay attention and walk along with me (at either side)
THIS WAY	Used when walking AT SIDE, to change direction. Say it BEFORE changing direction (includes turn INTO and AROUND to effectively change sides if necessary!)
WITH ME	usually used after a 'release cue' to keep the dog with me, and not running off

CLOSE	come to, sit at my LEFT side
SIDE	come to, sit at my RIGHT side
'Hop it Up'	go to your 'PLACE' (bed, towel, blanket, whatever designated SPOT, where you want them to go and stay put until your release them) <i>Also used when putting them anywhere you want them to stay on a blanket, etc. - at a person's home, at a parade, setting them up for a picture, etc.</i>
In your 'CRATE'	go into your crate, usually sit at the back
SIT	sit (in front of me, facing me usually)
DOWN	lie down, chest & elbows on the floor
STAND	stand, on all fours, no movement
BACK	Back up (until given 'sit' or 'down' command)
GIVE	release a toy or anything, to me
BRING ME	retrieve and bring something to me, drop in my hand
LEFT (with hand signal to right)	in front of me, Spin, full circle, to his left (my right)
RIGHT (with hand signal to left)	in front of me, Spin, full circle, to his right (my left)
RELEASE & PERMISSION CUES	
COOKIE	A cue to indicate that there is a treat coming, right to your mouth!
SEARCH	A permission cue to pick up the food thrown on the floor (or dropped) DO NOT USE "BREAK" FOR THIS! "Break" is not food related and is a release cue not a permission cue!
BREAK	release from current command and tells dog he is free to do where he wants! (hopefully it's coming to you!) NOTE: ("okay" is overused in everyday chat!) Used at doors and gates after a sit (to go out on their own: when going with them, I step out first, then they get the word break to follow) DO NOT USE 'BREAK' to release to food, so you keep the clarity that 'break' is to release to the next activity, etc.
IMPORTANT NOTE: BREAK (from Crate/Car/Dog Park Gate, etc.)	Avoid the dog BOLTING out of a crate or car or being reinforced by something/someone they see in the distance. use 'Break' & 'Sit', to get attention on you as soon as your dog comes out of the car. NOTE: do not open the crate/car/dog park gate door, until the dog is sitting, leash while still sitting, and after they are told 'break' and come out, ask for a controlled sit, then unleash & give permission cue 'Go see' (if applicable & safe!)
GET IT	permission to get something they can see & want (food, toy, etc.)
GO SEE	permission to leave me and 'go see' something/someone in which they are showing interest; still needs to 'recall' when asked
OFF YOU GO (or 'All Done')	replaces 'Go Play' for us as it's too similar to 'Go See'. Permission to 'go do their thing'! Let's your dog know that access to reinforcement is not available right now! <i>(different from 'Break': the term 'Break' means they find value in sticking with you for the next cue, and not muddled with 'off you go' to do their own thing!)</i>

CORRECTION CUES

NONE! We do our best NOT to use corrections!

Pup, Pup, Pup' or 'E-nough' can be used in an upbeat tone, as a 'positive interrupter'

'Ah-Ah' or 'Shh' sounds could be a 'non-reward' marker - used **very** occasionally!

TRICK CUES:

BANG	point a finger at dog (like a gun) and say 'Bang', dog 'falls' into a 'down, and rolls onto his side, puts his head down and holds the position until he is released ('break' or 'yes')
WHISPER	Small, barely audible 'bark'
PRETTY	sit 'pretty' (<i>front paws & upper body is up, sitting back on hind legs/bum</i>)
SPEAK	Bark on cue
PAW	Give which ever paw is asked (by the hand presented)
OTHER PAW	Give the other paw asked (by the other hand presented)
CROSS	cross one paw over the other (<i>depending on direction of point/toe tap</i>)
HIGH FIVE	My hand up straight, his paw against my hand
FOOD ON NOSE: TOSS TO CATCH	I position the food on nose, dog waits to hear 'Get It'
UP	Putting out hands, palms up, and the dog puts 2 front paws UP into your hand
HUG	Paws on my shoulder, his face pressed on mine
RIGHT SPIN	facing you, spin to his right: my right arm cues across my body
LEFT SPIN	facing you, spin to his left: my left arm cues across my body