

## Initial Assessment Homework



**1.) Read and carefully review the handouts and your summary email.** There is a lot of information in these resource materials.

**2.) Record the cues you plan to use to communicate to your dog! And what each cue will mean!**

It could be 'banana' for all your dog cares - the words you use are up to you, as long as you attach clear meaning to those words for your dog!

HINT: don't use 'okay' - it is hard to attach specific behavior meaning to such a common word!

**'Yes!'** **Marker Cue:**

a short, upbeat word to tell your dog that what he just did is correct and there is reinforcement coming! ('Yes', 'Good Girl', 'Oui', 'Bravo', etc.)

**'Get It!'** **Permission Cue:**

a word/short phrase to let your dog know he can move to take what he is looking at and wants in this moment (toys or food, etc.)  
( 'Get It', 'Take It', 'Vas-y', 'Prend le', etc.)

**"Break!"** **Release Cue:**

a word to let your dog know he can move away from a 'hold position' like being in his crate or at the door, or in a 'sit' or 'down' etc.  
( 'Break', 'Free', 'Go', 'Te Libre', etc.)

**"Come!"** **Recall Cue:**

if you plan to use your dog's name, don't use his name to mean a zillion other things! (Dog's Name, Dog's Nickname, 'Come', 'Viens', etc.)

**3.) Decide on treats you will use for training, by TESTING treats with your dog. Only your dog can tell you which treats are best for him to do his best work!**

Low Value Treat: kibble, or plain, dry dog treats



High Value Treat: chicken, beef, heart, liver (try real foods, real meats)

Exclusive, super-duper tasty treat for 'Recall' training: (strong cheese (in moderation), for example!)

**4.) Practice 'marker word' & 'treat delivery' as two separate, distinct steps.** Practice without your dog.

Stand in front of a low chair, with your treat bag on, or treats in your pocket. With your hands both relaxed at your side, say your marker word, 'Yes, Good Boy', wait for a 1 second count, THEN reach for your treat, and place it on the chair in front of you! Keep your hand away from your treats, at your side, as you are marking a behavior.

**5.) Now, LOAD UP your Marker cue with your dog.** Just randomly say, your marker cue, wait for a one second count, and give your dog a treat! Repeat 100X this week!

**6.) Next, LOAD/RELOAD your dog's name to mean 'bring your attention to me'!** Just randomly say your dog's name, wait for a one second count, and give your dog a treat! Repeat 100X this week!

**7.) Now, LOAD UP the 'search cue'** which will be used to ask your dog to 'stop what he is doing, and bring his attention to you or the floor for a treat.' This 'prevents rehearsals of unwanted behavior'.

**8.) Begin training the concept of 'permission' around meals & within the 'Choice & Permissions' game**

**9.) Begin training the concept of 'release cues' with "hold in position" in the crate and at doors.**

**10.) Get a 'Weekly Planner' (The Dollarstore has great 'Weekly Planner' pads!).** Schedule your training with each of the games we have left for you. As you continue training with us, we'll add 'games' to your Training Schedule!



**IMPORTANT: Review your summary email for more details on your training plan!**