Capturing & Shaping

Creating Long Term Success

What is Capturing / Shaping?

When we wait for the dog to naturally perform a desired behavior, such as sitting or not jumping, and then immediately mark and reward the behavior. Unlike luring or shaping, which guide the dog into performing the behavior, capturing relies on the dog offering the behavior on their own. Capturing is effective for reinforcing natural behaviors that the dog might already do but hasn't associated with a command. It's particularly useful for teaching behviours such as no jumping, no counter surfing and no barking that may be difficult to create a cue for.

1

Set a Goal

- Pick out two or three behaviors you'd like to see more of from your dog such as being on their bed or not barking at the door. Many people start with lying calmly at your feet or looking up at you during walks. You can also pick the "least bad" behaviors that your dog has. To make it easy pick something that your dog does pretty regularly at first.

2

Prepare Food Rewards

- Count out 25-50 treats or set aside a portion of your dogs kibble.
- Keep the rewards stored in central locations but out of reach from your dog. We recommend the front door, living room, kitchen and by your dogs crate.

3

Keep An Eye Out

- Anytime you catch your dog doing a good behaviour or one of your goals, mark ("yes") and reward them!
- If the dog continues to preform the desired behaviour (ie. not barking or sitting nicely) mark & reward them a few times more before moving along. This helps speed your dogs training up!