**Clicker Training for Humans**

You will need a cup, a treat bag, 20 small treats and your clicker.

1. Place your cup on a table and stand in front of it ( pretend the cup is your dog)
2. Place about 5-6 pieces of kibble in your left hand.
3. Place your clicker in your right hand and place your thumb over the clicker.
4. Hold both hands at your side.
5. Press the clicker one time and release. Keep your clicker hand at your side- do not point it at your puppy as it is NOT a remote control.
6. After the click is complete, move your left hand towards the cup and drop the treat it.
7. Return your left hand to your side.
8. As soon as your left hand returns to your side, click again with your right hand. Your treat should not be moving while you’re clicking!
9. Repeat until all 20 treats are in the cup.

\*\*\* Treats should be no bigger than the size of a fingernail and something your puppy really likes.

**Charge your clicker at home**

You will need a hungry dog, a clicker, a non-distracting and quiet environment and 30 small treats.

Sometimes the treats will be delivered to your puppy and other times they will be tossed in a variety of directions, to reset your puppy and keep them guessing. If your puppy grabs at your hand, do NOT pull back. Keep your hand still until your puppy’s mouth softens.

1. Click --- give your puppy a treat. Repeat 10 times.
2. Click---- toss the treat to the ground. Repeat 10 times.
3. Change your body position-----Click----Give your dog a treat. Repeat 10 times.

As you practice you will get quicker and quicker at delivery but for the first time concentrate on where your hands are and your timing. Down the road we will also vary which hand delivers the treats.

**Adding Cues**

Cues are anything the dog perceives. The most common cues are visual and audible. It’s much easier for your puppy to learn visual cues than audible cues. The sequence is as follows: Give your cue---dog performs---click to mark the behavior---and reinforce with a treat. Cues should be one word and preferably 1-2 syllables.

The cue is added after you are able to predict that your puppy will perform the behavior. Always give your cue prior to the behavior. There is no need to repeat the cue continuously.

Once your behavior is on cue and performed 80% of the time when asked, you can fade out your clicker.

Sessions should be 2-5 minutes and should take place several times a day.

In each training session only work on one behavior that is not on cue.

This handout is provided by Nicole from the MN Valley Pet Hospital