

Training Reliable Behaviors

Have you ever taught a dog to sit, only to be frustrated when they will not sit on a walk, while guests are over, or while a toddler is running around holding snacks? You are not alone. Training a behavior so that your dog will perform it in **real-world scenarios** takes some time, but thankfully there is a process to help get you there effectively and efficiently.

1

GET THE BEHAVIOR



Capture, shape, or use a target to help teach your dog the new behavior. Your trainer will help you determine which technique is best for your dog.

2

ADD THE CUE



When your dog is offering the behavior you can add a cue so that you can communicate when you want your dog to perform the behavior.

3

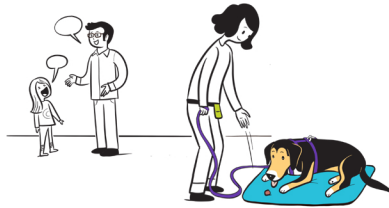
The 3 Ds

1. DURATION



Ping-pong between short and slightly longer times before you click. This will keep your dog's motivation up by setting them up for success while still progressing towards your goals.

2. DISTRACTION



Start with very easy distractions and work up to your dog's most challenging distraction.

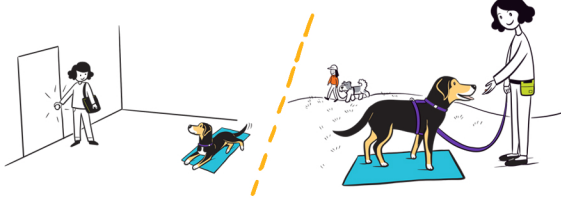
3. DISTANCE



Vary how close to and how far away from your dog you stand. As with duration, ping-pong the distance to keep motivation up.

4

2 Ds Alone



DURATION + DISTANCE / DISTRACTION + DISTANCE
Begin to combine the Ds. Always start with the easiest combination and work your way up to more challenging combinations.

5

All 3 Ds Together



Now you are ready to combine all 3 of the Ds together. Start with the easiest combination and work your way up to more difficult ones.

Following this process, your dog will be able to perform a new behavior under real-world conditions.

