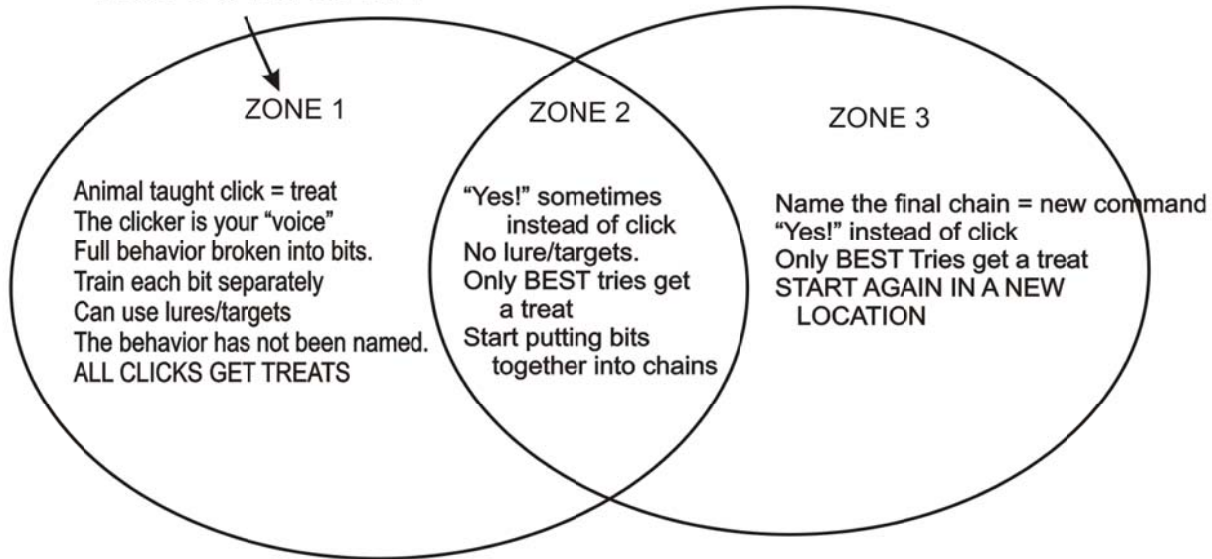


STAR (See, Tag And Reward) Training Guidelines

YOU START HERE



ZONE 1: "What's the best way to eat an elephant? One bite at a time"

Thinking:

- BREAK DOWN what you want the dog to do into tiny "bites".
- FIGURE OUT the dog's favorite things – Treats? Balls? Squeaky toys?

Action:

- WORK ON ONE BITE AT A TIME..
- KEEP EACH SESSION SHORT – 3-5 minutes, then a break.
- WITH YOUR VOICE AND YOUR BODY SILENT help the dog understand what it can do to get a reward. (**CLICK! TREAT!**)

But how do we get it to do something we can reward?

- CAPTURE something it already does (yawn, lie down, etc.)
- LURE it with a treat
- Use a TARGET object (touch with your nose/paw) to lure instead of a treat
- TWO FAILURES IN A ROW? Simplify the task so that animal is successful.
- FIVE SUCCESSES IN A ROW? Time to make it *slightly* harder.
- ALL BITES LEARNED? Chain them together.

Zone 2: "By George, I think I've got it!" – Transitioning to real life

- GRADUALLY START TAGGING USING "YES!" instead of the clicker.
- GRADUALLY STOP REWARDING EVERY SINGLE TRY and switch to rewarding only the very best tries, or every 3rd or 5th tries. BUT STILL SAY "YES" to let them know they did it right. (Is this breaking the "every click = a treat" rule? No, you are not using a clicker.)
- ADD THE NEW COMMAND/SIGNAL only after the animal clearly understands the whole "elephant" and can do it again and again without lures or targets.

Zone 3: Green Eggs and Ham: "Can you do it in the rain? Can you do it on a train?"

- START ALL OVER IN A NEW LOCATION. Until they are very, very practiced at "the game", dogs don't realize that "sit" in the kitchen before mealtime = "sit" in the park in the rain = "sit" in the front hall when guests arrive.