What does a S.T.A.R. Trainer DO?

See what you want
Tag it with a click
And
Reward

How does a S.T.A.R. Trainer DO it?

- With a **CLICKER!**
  Remember that a clicker isn't a remote control - it's our voice when we talk to critters that don't "speak human."

- With **TRUST!** The critters trust us to keep our promises:

Trainer's Promise #1:
Every click = a reward.

Trainer's Promise #2:
I will never ask you to do something you can't do.

Trainer's Promise #3:
I will never ask you to do something dangerous or that will get you into trouble.

Trainer's Promise #4:
I will never scold you if you try and don't succeed. I will be proud of you for trying!

Trainer's Promise #5:
It's OK for you to say "no."

The Little Dog Laughed Animal-Assisted Therapy
P.O. Box 80602
Portland, OR 97280

An all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charity,
Tax-ID 35-2431818

Message Phone: 971-266-1505
E-mail: star@theLittleDogLaughed.org

Website: https://www.theLittleDogLaughed.org
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/theLittleDogLaughedAAT/

OUR MISSION

To use the joy of dog training in support of behavioral therapy professionals in their effort to nurture empathy and non-violent problem solving skills.

The Little Dog Laughed
Animal-Assisted Therapy

The Little Dog Laughed

Animal-Assisted Therapy

The Little Dog Laughed
Animal-Assisted Therapy
Portland, Oregon USA.

What We Do

Our primary focus is children impacted by ACEs (*Adverse Childhood Experiences*). Some have been exposed to violence, some have behavioral challenges.

With the assistance of our off-leash dogs, we create a safe place to explore and practice non-violent means of problem solving and interpersonal communication.

In domestic violence shelters our dog/handler teams work to stop the cycle of violence by modeling and teaching positive interaction techniques to children whose behavior may have been shaped by coercive, angry parenting.

In residential treatment facilities we meet children from loving families doing the very best they can for kids with behavioral or psychological challenges. We believe our dogs create an environment of play that is helpful to mental health professionals treating those children.

In schools our focus is dog-safety education, respect for personal boundaries, and life skills.

As the children learn clicker-training and other positive techniques, we help them experience the wonder of creating a healthy relationship with a new friend who just happens to be a dog.

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?

There are countless models of animal-assisted therapy – starting with the well-known bond of the family dog + kiddo, and becoming increasingly sophisticated and replicating evidence-based research.

In this diverse field, The Little Dog Laughed fills a special niche. We focus on short-term interventions – SFBT – (*Solution-Focused Brief Therapy*) in support of mental health and child-care professionals. Happily, positive training methods and principles map well to the PBIS (*Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports*) framework used by schools and shelters.

Our dogs work off-leash, increasing the impact of their willingness to play with the children as we create new and engaging games.

DOES IT WORK?

Yes. We were formally evaluated in a three-year study by the Pacific University Psychology Department.

Based on the observational data, The Little Dog Laughed, Animal-Assisted Therapy Program demonstrated efficacy for child residents of two domestic violence shelters. ***Evidence was established through statistically significant behavioral improvement*** *... within a single 15 to 20-minute animal-assisted activity session. ...*

It is conceivable that the seven behavioral outcome categories for child residents of domestic violence shelters could be modified for a variety of other populations, including but not limited to assisted living residents, youth and adolescent life skills training, and adults or children with physical or intellectual disability.

WHAT DO CLIENTS THINK?

From an Elementary School Counselor:
"...it provides a different way to facilitate social skills/friendship groups, combining dog-assisted sessions with regular sessions, thus ensuring transferability and practice of the skills."

From a Family Shelter Summer Camp:
"...this program does an excellent job of helping little ones learn important skills that help them heal from trauma. The program looks like fun games or information about how to train dogs, ***but underneath the fun was an excellent framework that helped our kids learn to regulate their emotions, set and respect boundaries, and develop perseverance, patience, and the importance of encouraging others. These skills are invaluable for kids.***"

From a Domestic Violence Shelter:
"...the group has a positive impact on some youth participants' overall confidence and understanding of asserting and respecting boundaries (both their own and others)."

DO YOUR DOGS *LIKE* THIS?

Yes. Yes, they do.