

HOW TO USE YOUR CLICKER

A TRICK TRAINING GUIDE

If you're looking for a fast and effective way to teach tricks to your dog, a clicker is the key to your success. Training with a clicker is a tried and tested way to get great results.

In this special training guide, we've teamed up with **Jacqui Payne**, lead trainer at dog display team **Paws For Thought**, to talk you through everything you need to know to get started, **plus a bonus step-by-step guide** to help you teach your dog a brand new trick.



Jacqui's TOP TIPS for getting started:

Have a bag of your dog's favourite treats handy.

Break each new trick down into bite-size pieces and make sure your dog has mastered each stage before moving on.

Tempt your dog with a treat until they do the right behaviour then promptly click and reward.

Click and reward frequently and celebrate even the smallest achievements.

Break up your clicker training with regular play breaks. Tug-E-Nuff Dog Gear toys are a great way to have some fun and keep training focussed.

Move on to verbal cues or hand signals alongside the clicker – but be patient. Some dogs pick it up straight away, others need more time – and that's OK.

Never force a trick if your dog seems uncomfortable. All dogs are different and what one dog enjoys, another might dislike. If it's clear they aren't making progress or enjoying themselves, move on and try something else.

Always end your clicker training on a positive by asking your dog to do an 'easy' trick you know they can do (even if it's 'sit').

What's a clicker?

It's a small hand-held device that 'clicks' when you press it. It's used to signal to your dog that they've done the right thing.

Why should I use one?

Clickers are great because they are so simple. Your dog quickly learns that the sound means they are on track for a treat and they allow you to click at exactly the right time to teach specific behaviours.

A clicker also stands in when you can't offer a food reward straight away.



Use Your Free Clicker To Teach a New Trick

TAKE A BOW

tug-e-nuff
Dog Gear
tug-e-nuff.co.uk

BONUS
STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

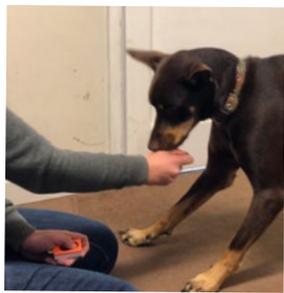
Teaching your dog to bow is a fun trick that can be easily achieved using your new clicker, some treats and a bit of patience.

Here's Jacqui's step-by-step guide to achieving it:

STEP 1 Choose your timing carefully. Make sure both you and your dog are relaxed and have some time to spare.

STEP 2 Sit in front of your standing dog with your clicker in one hand and a treat in the other.

STEP 3 Move the treat to your dog's nose before slowly moving it downwards between his front legs (this is to encourage the nose to follow the treat, which should mean the dog lowers their chest towards the ground). If your dog does this, even if only for a moment, then click and reward.



STEP 4 If your dog struggles, try watching them when they stretch and clicking and rewarding when they naturally do the bow movement.

STEP 5 It's common for dogs to go quickly into the down position before you get a chance to click and reward for the bow. If this happens, try gently looping your arm under them to hold them up for their click and reward.

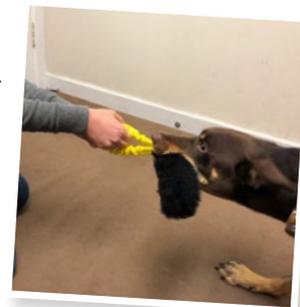
STEP 6 Gradually start withholding the click and reward until your dog gets lower to the ground.

STEP 7 Put in plenty of practice and you will soon have a bowing dog. Ta da!

STEP 8 Once this has been achieved, you can move on to using verbal cues or hand gestures. Using 'bow' or 'down' is the most obvious choice, but some dogs find this confusing so feel free to use whatever word you like – as long as you use it consistently.



STEP 9 Consider using a toy as an alternative reward to mix things up. Tug-E-Nuff Dog Gear toys are brilliant motivators so try a Sheepskin Tug or Tennis Ball Bungee, or hide the treats in a Food Bag or The Clam to add some extra interest.



STEP 10 Show off your new trick to all your family and friends!

Shop our full range of motivational training toys at

www.tug-e-nuff.co.uk

Our thanks go to Jacqui for sharing her expertise in this guide. Find out more about the work she does with Paws For Thought at www.pawsforthought-dogdisplay.co.uk