

Teaching dog to wait for the cue – part of fluency

It is what happens between reinforcer and the next cue. And it should be integral in all of your training.

The dog's job is CALM ATTENTIVE behavior. It might be still or it might be in motion, but should have calmness and attention on you. And that is what you want to mark and motivate.

Start with 1 known cue

Shape the duration of the wait/pause before you give the cue

Cue>behavior> mark/pay>then quickly mark/pay calm/attentive behavior a few times> give cue and pay the behavior

Treat placement can be used to help explain the waiting concept to the dog.

Example: Touch stationary target with nose

Mark for nose touch> cue nose touch just before it happens a few times> deliver reward AWAY from the target> quickly mark and deliver treat away from target to mark waiting for the cue

Gradually build duration of the waiting and build clarity of the cue by mixing the cue into the waiting.