

Testing the Marker

1. Pair the Marker & Reinforcer

Pair your chosen marker and reward repeatedly. A great way to do this is with pattern games, such as Whiplash Turn, or Up-Down.

Repeat until you think your pet recognizes the marker.



2. Set up

When your pet is alert and awake, but not engaged in an activity, nor focused on an object, etc.
No treats or toys in your hands.
Calmly, quietly, and benignly enter the area.
Several feet away from your pet such that they are not looking directly at you



3. Test

1. Present the marker
2. Your pet should immediately turn and look at you
3. and/OR look at or look for the reinforcer
4. and/OR approach you



Confirm

If the criteria in step 3 do NOT occur, spend more time on step 1 and retest again later. Retest infrequently, to avoid weakening your marker.

If the criteria in step 3 DO occur, repeat the test again on another day to confirm.

