

# Tips for Clicker Training Cats



## Be Patient

- Cats are built to notice tiny movements, so try to avoid distracting them by moving too much (ex: hands, clicker, treats, target, etc.) while training
- Resist repeatedly calling their name, wiggling the target, or trying to get their attention
- Wait for THEM to reengage
- Allow time between each rep
- Wait until food rewards are fully swallowed, lips licked, and attention is back on you before asking for another rep



## Tips for Success

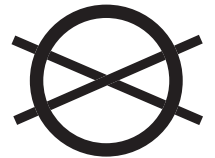
- Cats prefer familiarity to feel safe
  - Train in locations where cat is comfortable, such as a room they love or on their favorite tree or chair, etc.
  - Offer treats they've tasted before
- Minimize distractions
  - Turn off the TV, radio, etc.
  - Remove young kids, other pets, etc.

## Using Markers



- Every mark is followed by a reward
- Just ONE mark at a time
- Many cats startle at the sound of a clicker
  - Avoid box clickers
  - Quieter options: iClick, Click-R, Clicino, clicking pens, etc.

## Avoid Frustration



- Keep sessions short (ex: 1-3m at first, esp for shy cats; no more than 10 min)
- After session, encourage play followed by rest, calm, and quiet time/space
- Signs that mean “take a break”
  - Refusal to look at the target
  - Cheeking randomly, sudden grooming, etc.
  - Repeatedly walking away in a curved path with tail up in a question mark