

# Shelter Dog Training

## Basic Obedience Education

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Thank you so much for your interest in helping us train our dogs! The shelter could not completely fulfill its mission without compassionate people like you.

This slideshow presentation accompanies the *Shelter Dog Training* packet.

**To complete this training, click through all slides in the presentation, and watch all videos within each slide.**

## Contacts

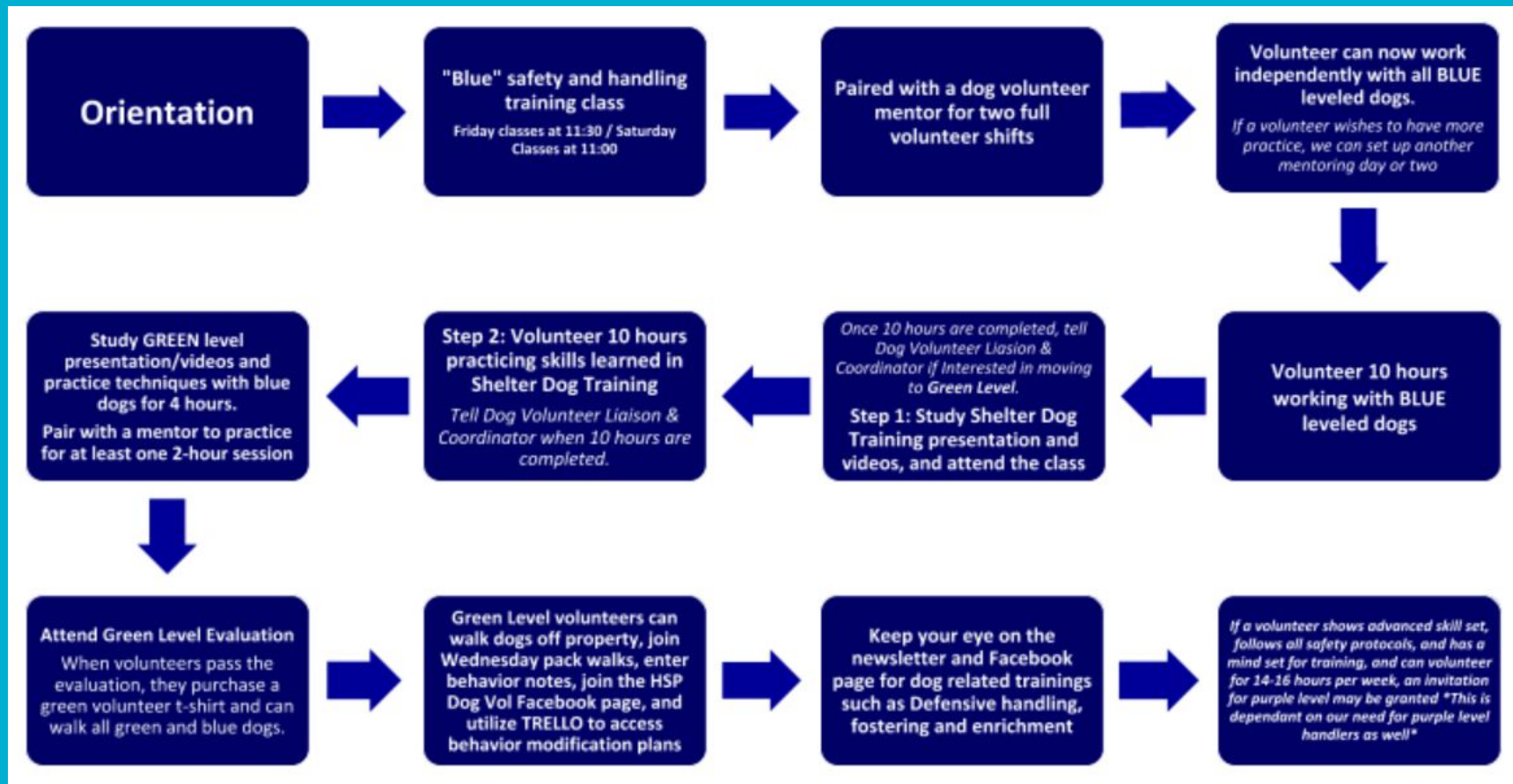
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## Overview

The Shelter Dog Training course provides instructions for how to properly conduct **force-free, reward-based training** and how to teach dogs a variety of basic obedience commands. This course may be completed after conducting ten hours of volunteering at the Blue Volunteer Level. This course must be completed and exercised for ten volunteer hours prior to being able to complete Green Volunteer Level Training.

# Overview of Dog Volunteer Levels

# Flow Chart



**Contact your Volunteer Coordinator and Dog Volunteer Liaison with any questions you may have about this!**

# Introduction to Training

# Reward Marker

## Timing and Importance

A reward marker serves to signal the animal when they have completed a desirable behavior and that reward will follow that signal.

An animal must first be trained so that he understands the meaning of the marker. This can be done through a simple exercise: Signal the marker (click or *Yes!*) and then reward. Conduct approximately 15-20 times, or until the animal understands that the marker signals reward will follow.

## Clicker

A tool used to mark a desirable behavior and signal reinforcement is coming. This tool creates a distinct *popping* or *clicking* noise that is often unique to the animal.

Clickers are provided for volunteer use in the Volunteer Office.

## Verbal Marker

A short word or phrase used to mark a desirable behavior and signal that reinforcement is coming. The word, *Yes!*, is what is used at HSP.

Though verbal markers are not as consistent as a clicker, they prove useful when a clicker is unavailable or unrealistic for use.

# Reward Markers



Clicker



Verbal Marker, "Yes!"

# Methods of Conditioning

## **Luring**

Luring is a method of conditioning that utilizes a reward, such as a treat, to guide a dog through the physical motions of a behavior. This method is used frequently throughout this course.

## **Shaping**

Shaping is a method of conditioning where a handler must reward a dog for small, achievable steps in order to learn, and ultimately complete, the end-goal behavior.

## **Capturing**

Capturing is a method of conditioning that requires a handler to mark and reward a behavior that a dog completes naturally or unprovoked.



# Luring

*The luring method is used primarily throughout this training course.*



# Shaping



# Capturing



# Kennel Exercises



# Kennel Exercise Type I

This exercise relies on *classical conditioning*, where the handler is working to create a positive, **conditioned emotional response (CER)** when the dog sees the handler approach or walk past the kennel. The goal is for a relaxed CER to replace a stressed/frustrated CER.

This exercise does not require the use of a verbal marker, because specific behaviors are not being trained.



# Kennel Exercise Type II

While this demonstration was done with a puppy in quarantine, the same rules and techniques apply!

**Training with a shelter dog in their kennel** can help reduce barrier frustration (barking, growling, etc in the kennel) and can improve kennel presence, which will help increase adopter interest.

Using a marker and reinforcement like this is called *operant conditioning*.



# Walking Equipment

# Equipment Uses

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- **Slip Lead** - Used on dogs who do not pull on leash or who have a physical condition that would be irritated by a harness (rubs under forelegs, wounds, etc)
- **Easy Walk** - Used on dogs who may pull on leash.
- **3-in-1 Harness** - Used on dogs who may pull on leash and have a large, deep chest.
- **Freedom Harness** - Used on dogs who may pull on leash, have a large, deep chest, and who do not fit in the 3-in-1 Harness.
- **Back-clip Harness** - Used on small dogs who may pull on leash or large dogs who may need to drag a leash.



# Easy Walk Harness



# 3-in-1 Harness



# Freedom Harness



# Back-clip Harness





# Opening Kennel & Leashing Shelter Dog



# Easy Walk Demonstration



# Demonstrations continued



# Leash Skills



**Practice holding the leash correctly when walking dogs for safety and improved handling.**



**DON'T allow dogs the full length of the leash.**

**DO keep your hands at your waist and manage leash length.**

# Use a “Leash Lock”



Lock on thumb



Lock on index finger



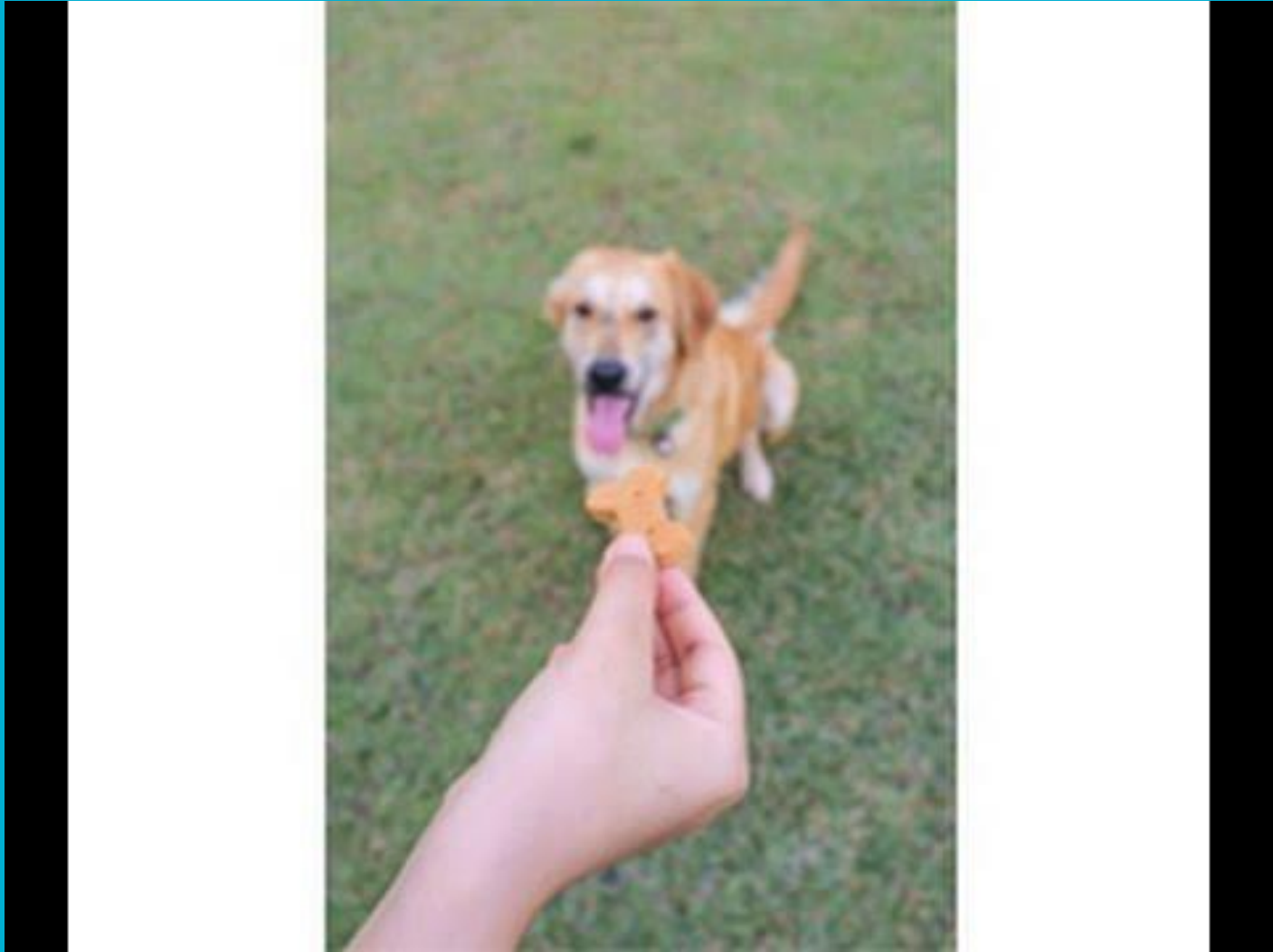
# Use a “Leash Lock”



Look at how strong the leash lock is!

# Obedience Cues

# Watch Me



# Touch / Hand Targeting



# Sit





# Down





# Wait



# Stay



# Leave It



# Drop It



**Toys should NEVER be removed from a shelter dog's mouth by hand. Always offer a trade-out treat or second toy.**

# Enrichment

# Importance of Enrichment

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Enrichment can keep our animals mentally healthy and provide an outlet for them to practice species-specific behaviors in the restrictive environment of the kennel. By providing enriching activities and puzzles, animal shelters can have great impacts on their animals' physical health and stability!

**All shelter pets should receive interactive, in-kennel enrichment two+ times per day. All pets in quarantine or isolation should receive in-kennel enrichment three+ times daily. This is in addition to their outings (if applicable) and playgroups.** The shelter works hard to find volunteers to cover these shifts, but we need your help!



**We need your help!**

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**Each Dog  
Volunteer is  
expected to  
issue in-kennel  
enrichment  
during their  
shift.**



# Enrichment Resources

*Click the links below:*

[Multisensory Enrichment for Shelter Dogs, IAABC](#)

[Dog Enrichment Resources, ASPCA Pro](#)

[Enrichment for Dogs in Shelters, Best Friends Animal Society](#)

[Enrichment Recommendations for Both Dogs and Cats in Shelters, University of Wisconsin-Madison](#)

[Life-Saving Enrichment Helps These Untouchable Shelter Dogs--and it's Good for Your Dog, Too, The Dog People](#)

[Enrichment for Shelter Dogs, Maddie's Fund](#)

[Shelter Enrichment Resources, UF Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program](#)



# Quizzes

Please submit these quizzes to your  
Volunteer Coordinator.

Objectivity Quiz

Shelter Dog Training Quiz

## Next Steps

- 1. Submit quizzes from previous slide**
- 2. Practice this material for a minimum of 10 hours**
- 3. Contact Volunteer Coordinator to schedule a handling evaluation**

**Thank you for making a difference in  
the lives of shelter dogs!**