

## USE CUES FOR REAL LIFE

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Training Tip Tuesday: Use Cues to make your life easier!

When I say "Training" many people think of obedience, maybe good manners. But Training can be so much more than that. By taking the time to teach your dog what you want in any given situation, you can make your life easier!

If you've spent more than 5 minutes with me, you've probably heard me talk about "creating positive associations".. and you can do this with anything. By making something fun, and rewarding a behavior you can shape it and put it on cue. We do this to teach our dogs to wipe their paws before coming inside, to stand still for being towed off, to hold a foot up for nail clipping, or to go get themselves in the tub for a bath.

If you've ever wrestled with your dog to perform some of these basic skills; think about taking a different approach. Instead of fighting him; break it in to little pieces and encourage him to offer the behavior you want. For example- if your end goal is to have him wipe his feet on a mat, what can you do to get that behavior? I start with a heavy duty rug and a big treat. i let the dog see me put it under the mat. I hold the edge down so he cant just poke his nose under. When he paws at the mat to get the treat, i click and reward! I captured the action i wanted. After a few repetitions, i can start adding a cue word to the behavior and in no time i have a dog that knows to keep his feet clean! The same with teaching them to take a bath... you want them to put themselves in the tub and stay there.. start by tossing a treat in the tub and rewarding even one foot in. Build on it until all 4 feet are in. Then add a sit/wait.

Be patient, encouraging and fun. Practice on good days when you don't have to worry about getting it done or running out of time. Then when you need it; you'll have a cue to use and it'll be a positive experience for everyone!

Kod - take a bath! <https://youtu.be/V4pITJFKmBk>