

Do you **capture** good behaviour?



@treatyourselfdogs







# What is capturing?

Capturing refers to the process of noticing when your dog offers desirable behaviour *without being asked* and marking, then rewarding that behaviour.





# What types of behaviours can be captured for reactive & fearful dogs?

Any desirable behaviour *can* be captured, but for fearful or reactive dogs specifically, we are primarily looking for behaviours that are **incompatible** with barking, lunging or fleeing.

Examples might include...

- Checking in with handler
- Disengaging from trigger
- Loose leash walking
- Refraining from barking when they usually would
- Better coping strategies (sniffing grass, shaking off)
- Exploring/air sniffing toward trigger with relaxed body language (especially for dogs prone to fear)





# Why is capturing useful?

**Time:** capturing does not require you to put extra time into training your dog, aside from the moment it takes to mark and reward.

**Convenience:** capturing does not require you to recruit helpers or orchestrate a setup; you can just do it when you are already spending time with your dog.

**Bonding:** observing your dog and picking out the **things they are doing right** can improve your perception of your dog and your relationship.





# What if my dog doesn't offer any desirable behaviour?

If your dog isn't offering anything you feel is worth reinforcing...

- **Look for the little things.** Did your dog walk nicely, even for a moment? Did they look toward you quickly, even if it wasn't extended eye contact? There is no dog that offers absolutely 0 reinforceable behaviour, if you're looking for it.
- **Reassess your environment.** If your dog can't offer any desirable behaviour, something about the environment is just too hard. Take your dog somewhere less triggering/distracting and try there.





Found this useful?

