

Positive Interrupter

We use a positive interrupter as a way to interrupt undesirable behavior in a way that does not add any type of stress, fear, or concern. If interrupting the behavior is contingent on having some stress/fear/concern, it is really easy for the behavior to break down. We use this to interrupt undesirable behavior and then redirect them to something we’d rather them do. If a dog is chewing your favorite shoe, you give the positive interrupter sound, reward them for engaging with you and then give them a chew toy.

Similar to how we condition the clicker, we are going to teach a dog to stop what they are doing and look to you when they hear a sound. We start with each dog individually in an area with no distractions and then slowly add distractions and other dogs.

1. In a boring area (bathroom is a good place), make your positive interrupter noise. When your dog looks at you, click/treat. Repeat. When your dog is 95% move to step 2.
2. Move to a more distracting environment (living room?). Make your positive interrupter noise, when your dog looks at you C/T. Repeat. IF your dog doesn’t look to you, you may have gone too far too fast, go back to where s/he was successful.
3. Continue with increasing distractions (away from food/toys)?
4. When there is +95% reliability with big distractions, you can start working with more than one dog simultaneously.