



The hidden cruelty of food based training

Food training

Strength: Food training encourages a behavior by rewarding the dog with something it wants.

Weakness: Cannot make the dog comply with commands, the dog may choose to ignore the food reward and pursue environmental distractions at any time.

Comment: *"I don't feed my dog twice a day. I give it an opportunity to earn food twice a day, whether it eats or not is entirely my dog's decision."*

Acceptable levels of discomfort:

When hunger contractions start to occur in the stomach, they are informally referred to as hunger pangs or pains. The sensation of hunger typically manifests itself after only a few hours without eating. This sensation is unpleasant.

Society accepts the feeding of dogs twice per day. The numerous hours of fasting between meals creates a very effective hunger pain with which trainers can influence the dog's behavior. This practice is a socially accepted norm known as 'positive reinforcement' training.

Comment: *'Food training is unreliable without the unpleasant physical sensation of hunger.'*

When the dog is experiencing an unpleasant level of hunger the trainer may commence food training. The trainer's ability to motivate and influence the dog's behavior will reduce piece by piece as the consumption of food triggers the release of leptin into the dog's body incrementally relieving the unpleasant feeling of hunger.

Training sessions should be given at least twice per day to allow the dog sufficient opportunity to earn food.

Remote Collar training

Strength: Remote collar training has the ability to refocus a distracted dog and convince it to perform the required task.

Weakness: Remote collar training cannot refocus an emotionally incapacitated dog that is experiencing a fearful survival response of fight or flight.



Emotional inoculation

The remote training collar can be paired with food through a process known as classical conditioning. This pairing has the effect of transporting the dog to the exact same emotional location as a food reward. The remote training collar can then be used to create an artificial hunger pain, however there are some differences between the natural hunger pain developed by lack of food and the artificial hunger pain induced by the remote training collar.

Natural hunger pain - food

- The natural hunger pain takes hours to reach the effective level of discomfort.
- If the dog does not comply during training it must be put away until the natural hunger pain returns to the effective level.
- The hunger pain is incrementally relieved one piece of food at a time.
- The dog may only be worked in the field while experiencing an effective level of hunger.

Artificial hunger pain – remote training collars

- The artificial hunger pain may be adjusted to appear instantly in the working range.
- The artificial hunger pain is relieved totally and instantly.
- The dog may be taught to avoid the artificial hunger pain altogether.
- The dog may be worked in the field on a full belly.

With remote collar training the dog has an opportunity to choose whether to comply or ignore the command, the dog's choice will dictate the outcome.

- Ignoring the command turns on the artificial hunger pain (stimulation) until compliance with the command turns it off.
- Immediately complying with the command will prevent any artificial hunger pain (stimulation) from occurring whatsoever.

Food training is unreliable without the continuous unpleasant physical sensation of hunger, while remote collar training need not have any discomfort associated whatsoever and any discomfort experienced is purely a cognitive decision on behalf of the dog.