

Training Cats to Increase Adoptability

Training to approach the cage front

Capture method - approach the cat's cage - if the cat comes forward - CLICK and treat.

Lure method – if the cat does not come forward on his/her own – place a treat just inside the cage door and wait for the cat to approach to eat it and when he/she does – CLICK that forward movement (the treat is already there in the cage).

Lure-shape method - if the cat does not come forward on his/her own - toss a small treat (small piece of tuna or other smelly treat) into the back of the cage (right in front of the cat) and CLICK when the cat makes any movement to the treat (the reward will already be there). Then toss another treat closer to the cage front - CLICK any movement to the treat. Continue this process until you have shaped the cat to come all the way to the cage front.

Target Training

Present your fingertip to the cat. When the cat sniffs it (which most cats will do) - CLICK when his/her nose touches your finger and then give the treat. You can target train cats living in single cages or in colony rooms. This teaches the cats to approach people who try to engage with them.

Trick Training

Cats who know a trick will appear very smart to the average person because most people don't think that cats can be trained. Tricks that you can train a cat using capturing, luring, or shaping with a marker signal include:

1. Sit
2. Down
3. Sit pretty (sitting up)
4. High 5
5. Roll over
6. Jump through a hoola-hoop
7. Go through a tunnel
8. Anything you want