



TRAINING PUPPIES AND YOUNG DOGS TO BECOME A DETECTION DOG
FOR EXPLOSIVE BY USING A TECHNICAL TRAINING AID.

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Introduction

- These days there is an increasing interest to get detection dogs for explosives
- Therefore public authorities need to get reliable detection dogs within a short time
- At the moment in NRW the training of those dogs occurs in special training courses that takes about twelve weeks



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IT'S NOT THE SIZE OF THE DOG IN THE FIGHT, IT'S THE SIZE OF THE FIGHT IN THE DOG
(Twin 2004)

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Introduction

- Dog and dog handler are sent to the training course
- It is the handler who trains his dog under the supervision of a trainer
- Therefor the training success depends strongly on the training skills of the handler



 

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(Twein 2004)

Introduction

- This factor is very important especially at the first training steps
- Classical Conditioning: Scent = Reward
--> Timing: Optimum 1 Second
- Operant Conditioning: Indication = Reward
--> Timing: Optimum 1 Second
- Next step: Duration of the indication

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Training

- Generally there exist to common training ways
 1. Rewarding the dog directly with the primary reinforcer
 2. Using a secondary reinforcer
- In both cases a false association occurs quite often: movements of the dog handler → reward



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Training

- Reinforcement is a process not an event
- Every event that happens before the primary reinforcer will be associated → in most cases the last event that happens for the dog is the movement of the handler
- Using a secondary reinforcer the risk is less high, but still exists



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Training

- Wanted association:
- Scent = reward
- Movement of the handler = not important

Training

Reinforcement:
The key to a successful training

Factors that affect the success

- Timing: When to reinforce?
- Criteria: What to reinforce?
- Rate of reinforcement: How often can I reinforce?

Training

- Timing:
 - Precise timing
- Criteria:
 - Goal: minimizing reinforcement for non-criteria responses
- Rate of reinforcement:
 - High rate of reinforcement strengthens behaviour

Machine

- Video
- Scent Detection Machine



Thank you for your attention!