



TO THE TREATS!

Today's challenge comes from our popular Repair the Brain then Retrain course in Club Dogwood. This activity is perfect for dogs who bark at the door or window, or for dogs that guard items.

Rather than react to a trigger in the house or at the window, train your dog to follow you to a designated place and then reward them once you're there!

Steve Mann from the IMDT uses the cue 'To the fridge!', but you can replace 'fridge' with wherever you want your dog to go. Or you can just say 'To the Treats!' One Scentventurer chose 'To the Bat Cave!' which is pretty cool if they do actually have a Bat Cave at home.

Keep your training sessions short and don't use it in a real life scenario until your dog stops what they are doing and follows you every single time.

If the problem you have is that your dog barks at the window, don't try it in that area until you've practiced it a lot in places where it's easier for your dog to concentrate.

Take your time building up your training firstly without distractions then within the problem areas.

- 1 week practicing 'To the Treats' to build up an association
- 1 week practicing 'To the Treats' from different rooms within your house
- 1 week practicing 'To the Treats' in the room where your dog would normally react
- Progress to training around distractions

Find Repair the Brain then Retrain at www.scentventure.dog

Check it out!



Since using 'To the Treats', Max's barking in the house has dramatically improved!

Glenis & Max

Glenis kept a simple diary of when triggers appeared outside the house and when Max barked before and after implementing the training. The reduction in barking was clear to see!

Method

1. Choose the place you would like your dog to go to when the unwanted behaviour occurs. E.g. if your dog barks at the front window, choose an area at the back of the house furthest from the window. If your dog reacts in the garden, choose an area indoors. Having one particular bed or rug that you always go to works well.
2. Prepare a tub of high-value rewards and leave them in the designated area for easy access.
3. Sit down on the sofa for a couple of minutes and relax.
4. Then suddenly jump up and with your best superhero impression, hand in the air pointing, and shout in a happy excited voice, 'To the treats/bed/Bat Cave!' and run to that place. Your dog will think you've gone mad but they'll wonder what the excitement is about and follow you ...
5. When you get to the designated place, scatter a handful of treats for your dog to find.
6. Stop, head back to the sofa, and relax!
7. Repeat, repeat, repeat! Practice in different rooms, at different times of the day.
8. Once it becomes a reflex response, i.e. they can't help but stop whatever they're doing and follow you each and every time, start to practice closer and closer to the area of the house where the problem behaviour tends to occur.
9. Make sure you've practiced enough before you need to test it out in real life.



Triggers

List the triggers for which you could use 'To the Treats' to stop barking.

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Treats & Area

Select an area away from the triggers and some high value treats.

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Jot your ideas down

Top tips:

- Introduce the training when there are no distractions.
- Repeat lots(!) to strengthen the response and association.
- Try it at different times during the day and different rooms of the house.
- Practice, practice, practice before you look to use it at times your dog starts to become unsettled with distractions which would trigger them to bark.
- If your dog prefers a lickimat, use one instead of treats and make your designated location the fridge, where they're stored.

