LEARNING GOALS

You will learn the core skills needed to train all concepts and then teach your animal his or her first complete concept skill: match to sample! This course is required before taking any of the other courses in our Concept Training family of courses.

Upon completing the course, you will be able to:

1. Define concept training
2. Describe several types of concept training
3. Describe what kind of training needs to take place before concept training
4. Understand the impactful role a marker, such as a clicker, can play in conveying information to the learner effectively and precisely
5. Understand the importance of establishing solid basics in regard to criteria, focus, and cue fluency
6. Understand the roles that fading a cue, a station position, and different types of targeting can play in concept training
7. Understand why critical skills are important to success in concept training
8. Practice key critical skills from daily training that are used in concept training:
   a. Stationing
   b. Targeting
   c. Desensitization
   d. Generalization
   e. Fluency
9. Describe what "training for the rule" means, and its importance to concept training
10. Engage in exercises that will build readiness for learning. These skills require the animal to learn an idea, a concept, or a set of rules to apply under given circumstances

karen
pryor
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11. Train five skills:
    a. Fading a cue
    b. Free shaping
    c. 101 things to do with an object
    d. Release signal
    e. Matching to sample

12. Understand the different types of concept training that will be covered in upcoming KPA courses

13. Understand what will be learned in each course and an explanation of the prerequisites needed for that course

14. Understand how interest, time, and skill sets play key roles in concept-training success

15. Consider the impact concept training can have on your current training and behavior repertoire

16. Understand how acquired conceptual skills can enhance your learner's problem-solving abilities so that the animal can take on new concepts and become a consummate problem-solver more quickly

17. Understand how to recognize the influence concept training has on the bond you have with your dog

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