The Process of Teaching New Skills

Process:

When teaching a dog a new skill we first start by using food to lure the dog into the correct position. Then we immediately mark (yes or good) and reward.

Lure   -   Mark   -   Reward

We never name it until we love it!

Eliminate any baggage your dog may associate with a command/ cue by shaping the behavior and then adding the name or verbal cue after the dog executes the behavior correctly. We don't want our dog to think that sit means to stand and stare at us. Or that come means bark at the neighbor dogs. So we don't put a name to the behavior until we love how our dog is doing the behavior and our dog LOVES doing the behavior.

Naming Behaviors:

When we are ready to name a behavior, we say the command. Pause briefly. Then continue with the exact same steps we have used previously to teach our dog the desired behavior.

Cue/Command   -   Lure   -   Mark   -   Reward

We've added the cue or command in front of the lure. Soon we will test our dogs' understanding by pausing for a longer period of time before we lure to see if they will complete the behavior without the help of the lure.

End Goal: Cue/ Command   -   Mark   -   Reward

Please note, during the process of testing your dog's understanding, if your dog fails to execute the behavior when asked, we mark 'No' and non reinforce.

Only reward what you love and what is correct.