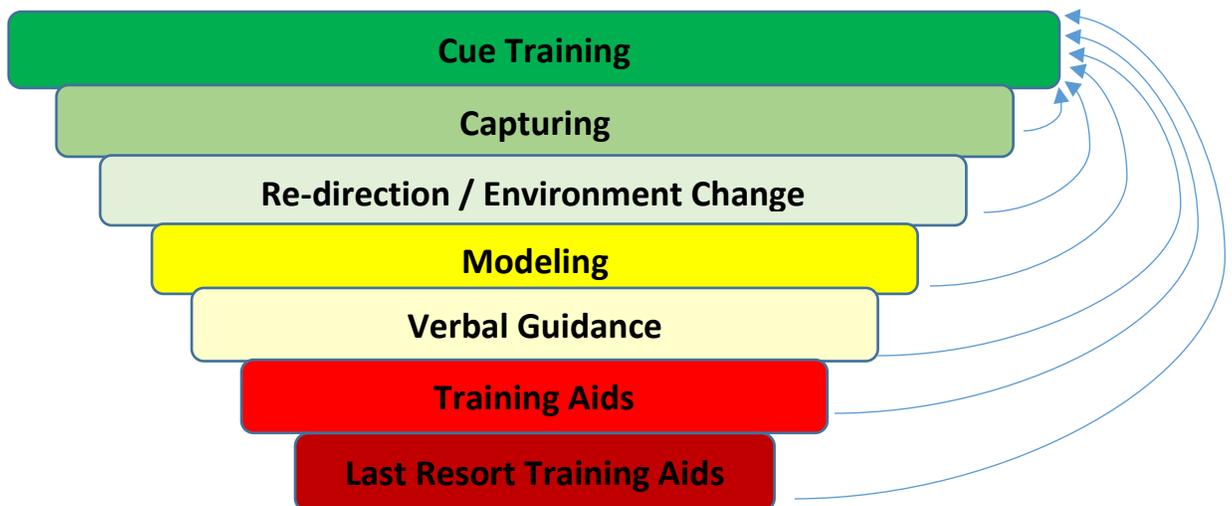


Training Methods

Compass Key teaches ethical training methods consistent with the following chart. We start at the first level (“Cue Training”). As additional training aids are needed, we move to the next technique level. This is not an ongoing chart (i.e., it does not go straight through the list: Cue Training, Capturing, Re-direction/Environment Change, etc.). Instead, after each level revert to the beginning (i.e. Cue Training, Capturing, Cue Training, Capturing, Re-direction/Environment Change, Cue Training, etc.). The goal is to use the least invasive method possible at all times, building your dog’s skills and confidence along the way. Our goal should be to stay in the green zones where training is joyous for both the handler and the dog. Furthermore, our goal as handlers should be to always listen to the dog, strive to educate ourselves, ask questions of our peers and mentors, and ensure we are using the most ethical, scientifically sound, and productive methods possible.



Cue Training: Lure → Target → Verbal or hand cue → Praise confirmation

- Verbal Marker/Clicker/ Target Training - *This may include outside training tools such as:
 - Harnesses (Easy Walk, Sensible, Wonder Walker, Freedom Harness, etc.)
 - Leash (cloth or leather)
 - Long leash
 - Collar (cloth or leather)
 - Target sticks or target objects
- Food/Play/Praise
- Shaping the desired behavior in incremental steps
- Gentle exposure to new environments and experiences at a pace the dog sets

Capturing: Watching the dog and waiting him/her out to praise when they complete the skill/behavior on their own.

- Stimulation break/intermission/re-group
- Gaze/eye contact



- Staying quiet/ignoring
- 'Dry'
- 'Go Potty'
- Any skill you are struggling to teach via targeting.

Re-direction/Environment Change

- 'Ready?' Saying their name in a questioning tone
- Re-direct
- Whistle/gentle clapping
- Going to a different or less distracting location

Modeling: Touching the dog to help them understand how to use their body.

- Nose/ear/tail tap
- Body block

Verbal Guidance: Using a commanding tone for ah-ah/nope or other cues such as "Off" or "Leave It." Always to be followed with a verbal cue for the desired behavior and praise.

Training Aids

- Gentle Leader
- Cloth martingale
- Chain leash (to hear the jingle)
- Bitter Apple sprayed directly on an object
- Leash jingling/vibration
- Leash flick (taking the slack out of the leash)

Last Resort Training Aids

- Pet Corrector – sprayed only in the environment, never directly at a dog.
- Spray Shield – sprayed only in the environment, never directly at a dog.
- Page/vibrate/beep collar (only collars with no option of shock capabilities)

Training tools never to be used

In the event that a client is already using one of the following training tools with their dog, we will actively work with them to refrain from using these techniques and help them to understand our other approved training methods instead.

- Shock collars (E-collars)
- Prong collars
- Choke chains
- Chain martingales
- Slip leads
- Physically kicking/hitting/kneeing/whipping
- Physical correction (including, but not limited to, gagging, muzzle holds, lip pinches, alpha rolls)
- Leash pops/jerks where the dog's body or neck is physically moved
- Intimidation (standing over, hovering, dominance, heavy staring)
- Flooding – intentionally pushing past boundaries and taking away choice
- Bitter Apple (or other bitter tasting spray) sprayed directly in the mouth
- Anger and frustration including shouting angrily
- Throwing items