

## Try Again Signal

### Purpose:

When clicker training, the clicker provides information to your dog. The click marks the behavior you want from your dog. Your dog understands the behavior she was doing when she heard the click is the behavior for which she will be rewarded. This is the behavior your dog will repeat in hopes of getting you to click so she can get another reward.

Once your dog has learned a behavior and you have put the behavior on signal, your dog should do the behavior whenever given the signal. Sometimes your dog will offer a behavior other than the one requested. We need a way to tell the dog there will be no click for that behavior. This is when you will use a **Try Again** signal.

**Verbal Signal:** Yes  
**Non-Verbal Signal:** Optional

### Try Again Signal:

You will introduce a verbal **Try Again** signal to your dog. It will mean there will be no **Click/Treat** because your dog did not give the behavior you asked for.

For example, if you asked your dog to **Sit** and she did a **Down** instead, she did not give the correct behavior. The **Try Again** signal lets her know she did not make the correct choice. There will be no **Click/Treat**. She should try again with a different behavior.

You may choose your **Try Again** signal. The favored signal is "Try Again". Some other examples are "Oops", "Sorry", or "Do Over". It is helpful if the signal is neutral instead of negative like "No". The **Try Again** signal is another piece of information, like the clicker. It is not a punishment.

Once you have you selected a **Try Again** signal, to be successful do not switch signals. Be consistent and use the same signal throughout your training.

### When to Start Using the Try Again Signal:

Use the **Try Again** signal only after your dog has learned and understands the behavior. Generally, you will have added a signal to the behavior.

The **Try Again** signal will always be followed by the signal of the behavior you wanted.

## Try Again Signal continued

Once your dog understands the **Try Again** signal you may find your dog will give the desired behavior when she hears the **Try Again** signal. You will still give the signal of the behavior you want even if your dog is already offering that behavior.

### Example:

- Lynn wants her dog Gizmo to **Sit**.
- Lynn gives the signal, "Gizmo, **Sit**."
- Gizmo lies down instead.
- Lynn uses her **Try Again** signal, "**Try Again**."
- Lynn immediately follows the **Try Again** signal with, "**Sit**".
- Lynn will still say, "**Sit**", even if Gizmo starts to sit when he hears, "**Try Again**".

### Training Tips

Give the **Try Again** signal no more than one or two times. If your dog does not give the requested behavior after a couple of tries, that behavior may need more training.

Say the **Try Again** signal in a normal tone of voice. The **Try Again** signal is just another piece of information for your dog. Your dog is not misbehaving. She simply made an incorrect choice. The **Try Again** signal means your dog gets another chance to give the desired behavior.

### Savvy Helpful Hint

Think about why your dog may not be giving the requested behavior. The following are a few ideas to get you started.

- Does she really know and understand the behavior?
- Has she ever done the behavior in the current environment?
- Are there more distractions or different distractions than she has trained around?

Your dog needs to practice a behavior in many different places and around a variety of distractions. This will allow your dog to generalize the behavior. It will help her understand the behavior you signal her to do is the same behavior regardless of where she might be or what might be going on around her.