

ELEMENT DOG TRAINING

Fading a Lure

- Fading a Lure is the process of teaching the dog to perform a behavior without the lure present
- Fading a Lure consists of changing how the reward is delivered until it can be delivered in such a way that the dog doesn't know whether or not the reward exists until after the behavior is performed
 - Note: Once our dogs are fluent in a behavior, intermittently rewarding the behavior creates the strongest response
- Generic Steps for Fading the Lure:
 - Reward with the lure hand
 - Reward with the non-lure hand
 - Reward from a visible location (e.g. a visible food pouch)
 - Reward from a hidden location (e.g. a hidden food pouch)
 - Reward from pre-planned hidden locations in the environment (pants pockets or random treat locations throughout the house)
 - Transition rewards to life rewards (e.g. play time, sniff time, access through thresholds, sticks, sand boxes, new people, etc.)
- When our dogs regress or need a reminder while we are fading a lure, we reinforce the behavior in the proper sequence:
 - Verbal cue -> Physical cue (hand signal) -> Lure