СІЛЬСЬКОГОСПОДАРСЬКІ НАУКИ

EFFICIENCY OF CLICKER-TRAINING APPLICATION FOR DOGS TRAINING FOR OBEDIENCE COURSES

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Operant method of dogs training (clicker training) qualitatively prevails the food method about studied with using special courses, namely: BH (companion dog) and DC (dog in the city). The use of the operant method of training allows to reduce the duration of dogs training under section A of the BH-UA course by 4.8 days, by the DC course - by 5.6 days. In addition the method of operant training is dominated by the nutritional method according to the results of testing the working qualities of dogs. For BH-UA course, this advantage was 6.0 points, for DC course - 13.7 points.
Keywords: dog, training, clicker, skills, commands, food method, operant method.

Introduction. Dog's behavior is complicated reflex activity, the result of numerous conditional and unconditional reflexes to various stimuli of the external and internal environment. [2,5,10] People train dog to certain often quite difficult work with the help of purposeful special training. Knowledge concerning physiological bases of dog's behavior and training is necessary in order to understand the peculiarities of his psychics and in accordance with them to build their work with animals properly [8,11]. General provisions of the training method are systems of action toward the dog with different stimuli in order to develop skills. Recently the operant method of dogs training, which is based on the active purposeful activity of the animal, has become increasingly popular [1,6,7]. The relevance of the topic is due to the need to teach the puppy to live in human society and to develop its basic instincts on which the basic training will be conducted. Obedience skills allow you to discipline the dog, make it manageable, and most importantly - allow you to maintain the correct hierarchy of human and dog [4,6].

The aim: to analyze methods of dogs preparation for obedience courses BH-UA (dog-companion) and DC (dog in the city); to substantiate the choice of necessary training methods for each animal under the conditions of "Arcadia selex" Kennel Center», Odessa.

Material and methods. The main method was comparative on the basis of analytical experiments using different training methods. Dogs of different breeds belonging to private owners were the object of research. The study involved 6 dogs aged 10-14 months of the following breeds: German Shepherd Dog - 2 heads, Belgian Shepherd Dog (Malinois) - 1 head, Labrador Retriever - 2 heads, Border Collie - 1 head. Methods of training dogs were studied with using special courses, namely: BH (companion dog) and DC (dog in the city) as well as the rules of testing and criteria for evaluation of participants [9]. Taste-promoting and operant methods were used for dog training and a comparative analysis of these methods was carried out. Animals with predominant nutritional and game behavioral responses were selected for the research and taste-promoting and operant training methods were applied respectively. Testing of dogs was carried out according to the method of V.N. Zubko [3]. The duration of training course and the quality of the exercise were taken into account when preparation training methods were compared.

Results and discussion. The initial task in clicker training was to work out an association between clicker clicks and positive support. The purpose of this task is to teach the dog to pay attention to clicks. For this, the dogs were given positive support immediately after clicking the dog. No action or movement was made during the pause between clicking and providing support. The food (support) was in correct size that the dog could swallow it without chewing. Dogs were taught 15-20 times a day for a week. At the end of the course, all 6 dogs responded actively to the clicker sound. When the dog realized that clicking meant a reward, they began to develop the skills required for a basic obedience course. Course BH-UA - "Dog - companion" involves two stages of preparation. Stage A - total obedience, which

includes a set of exercises: side-by-side movement and indifference to the shot, the "Sit" and "Down" commands during moving, to apporter on a flat surface, holding the "Settle" command in distracting conditions. Stage B is the behavior of dogs in urban environments, under distracting circumstances, in crowded places and left alone. According to the results of studies on the preparation of dogs under the course of BH -UA section A - "general obedience" the following data was obtained (Table 1).

Table 1. Duration of dogs' preparation in section A in the course BH-UA with different training methods, days

Group 1						Group 2					
The dog's nickname	№ skill					The dog's nickname	№ skill				
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
	duration, days						duration, days				
Bandi	5	6	5	7	3	Oskar	5	4	5	6	3
Zhani-Sha- Den	4	3	4	5	4	Martin Liuter King	3	4	5	5	2
Fidel	7	5	6	7	4	Milahres Red Mun	4	3	4	5	3
In average	5.3	4.7	5.0	6.3	3.6	In average	4.0	3.6	4.6	5.3	2.6
The total duration of the course	24.9					The total duration of the course	20.1				

Thus according to the data presented in table 1, the use of the operant training method can reduce the duration of training dogs in section A of the BH-UA course by 4.8 days. Dogs of both groups take the most time to develop the skill to apporter, as the most difficult, the least time - the ability to "Down" in distracting circumstances.

While training the same group of dogs at the DC course ("Dog in the City"), in addition to the ones studied in the previous course, they introduced such skills as demonstrating bite, their attitude to the muzzle, stopping undesirable actions on the "Leave-it" team, settling, laying, standing by the trainer and attitude to treats from the hands of a stranger. The following data was obtained from the studies (Table 2).

Table 2. The duration of dogs' training at course of DC with different training methods, days

Group 1						Group 2					
The dog's nickname	Bite c	Muzzle	Command Leave-it	Command Heel	Treats from strangers	The dog's nickname	Bite c	Muzzle	Command Leave-it	Command Heel	Treats from strangers
	duration, days						duration, days				
Bandi	1	4	5	4	7	Oskar	2	3	3	4	5
Zhani-Sha-Den	1	3	4	4	5	Martin Liuter King	1	2	3	3	3
Fidel	1	4	5	5	7	Milahres Red Mun	1	2	3	4	4
In average	1.0	3.6	4.6	4.3	6.3	In average	1.3	2.3	3.0	3.6	4.0
The total duration of the course	19.8					The total duration of the course	14.2				

As shown in Table 2, the duration of training at the DC course is reduced by 5.6 days using the operant training method. It takes the least time to develop a "Bite demonstration" skill, usually all more or less adequate dogs do it fairly quickly. Most of the time for dogs of both groups took the development

of the skill "Attitude to treatment from hands of a stranger." It should be noted that it is more difficult for this skill to be fixed in dogs that have been trained with the help of food method, because in order to increase its efficiency, animals with a predominant eating reaction are separated into the group, which explains the difficulty of developing this skill.

Overall, we need 44.7 days for training dogs with two courses - BH-UA (Section A) and DC, for training dogs with food method, whereas we need 34.3 days for training dogs using the operant method (clicker), that is almost 10 days less. Therefore, taking into account the preparatory period, 7 days in avarage, the duration of training for two courses when using the operant method of training is reduced by 3 days. The results of testing the experimental group of dogs for two courses are presented in table 3.

Table 3. Efficiency of applying the method of operant training at the courses of BH -UA and DC

Group 1			Group 2		
The dog's nickname	BH-UA Scores	DC Scores	The dog's nickname	BH-UA Scores	DC Scores
Bandi	51	79	Oskar	54	91
Zhani-Sha- Den	55	83	Martin Liuter King	59	95
Fidel	46	73	Milahres Red Mun	57	90
In average	50.6 (well)	78.3 (satisfactorily)	In average	56.6 (very well)	92.0 (very well)

Therefore, as shown in table 3, the effectiveness of the method of operant training qualitatively prevails the food method. For the BH-UA course this advantage was 6.2 points, for the course DC - 13.8 points. However, it should be noted that dogs of both groups deserve a diploma, as they have at least 70 points, but the national sample certificate in group 1 is awarded only to one animal - the Border Collie Zhani-Sha- Den, while in group 2 it is awarded to all animals. In addition, all stages of section B of the BH -UA dogs of both groups successfully overcome.

Conclusions. The use of the operant method of training allows to reduce the duration of dogs training under section A of the BH-UA course by 4.8 days, by the DC course - by 5.6 days. Taking into account the preparatory period, 7 days in avarage, the duration of training for two courses when using the operant method of training is reduced by 3 days. In addition the method of operant training is dominated by the nutritional method according to the results of testing the working qualities of dogs. For BH-UA course, this advantage was 6.0 points, for DC course - 13.7 points.

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ЕФЕКТИВНІСТЬ ЗАСТОСУВАННЯ КЛІКЕР - ДРЕСИРУВАННЯ ДЛЯ ПІДГОТОВКИ СОБАК ЗА КУРСАМИ СЛУХНЯНОСТІ

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Метод оперантного навчання собак (з використанням клікера) має вагому перевагу над смакозаохочувальним методом при підготовці за курсами ВН (собака-компаньон) та СМ (собака у місті). Застосування цього методу дозволяє скоротити тривалість підготовки собак за розділом А курсу ВН-UA на 4,8 днів, за курсом СМ - на 5,6 днів. Крім того, метод оперантного навчання переважає смакозаохочувальний метод за результатами тестування робочих якостей собак. Для курсу ВН-UA ця перевага склала 6,0 балів, для курсу СМ - 13,7 балів.

***Ключові слова:** собака, дресирування, клікер, навички, команди, смакозаохочувальний метод, оперантний метод.*

ЭФФЕКТИВНОСТЬ ПРИМЕНЕНИЯ КЛИКЕР-ДРЕССИРОВКИ ДЛЯ ПОДГОТОВКИ СОБАК ПО КУРСАМ ПОСЛУШАНИЯ

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Метод оперантного обучения собак (с использованием кликера) имеет весомое преимущество над вкусопоощрительным методом при подготовке по курсам ВН (собака-компаньон) и СГ (собака в городе). Применение этого метода позволяет сократить продолжительность подготовки собак по разделу А курса ВН-UA на 4,8 дня, по курсу СГ - на 5,6 дней. Кроме этого, метод оперантного обучения преобладает над вкусопоощрительным методом по результатам тестирования рабочих качеств собак. Для курса ВН-UA это преимущество составило 6,0 баллов, для курса СГ - 13,7 баллов.

***Ключевые слова:** собака, дрессировка, кликер, навыки, команды, вкусопоощрительный метод, оперантный метод.*