



Susan Garrett's ITSYERCHOICE Game (IYC)



ItsYerChoice (IYC)

Many years ago, I introduced a game that has changed the lives of many thousands of people and their dogs the world over. It's the key building block to everything I teach in dog training.

That game is ItsYerChoice.

This is the game that will really shift your dog's thought processes. Once you introduce this key game into your daily routine, your dog's relationship between "what they want" and YOU, will forever be changed. Learning how your dog thinks and makes decisions is the "KEY" to getting your dog to do what you want – when you want, without the need for yelling, intimidation or constant supervision. Because doing what YOU want, is going to be your dog's idea!

IYC Foundation Layers

For the foundations, you will need a variety of treats, leash, collar, dog bowl (optional). Also, know what word you will use to let your dog know you are going to deliver a treat to their mouth. Your word should already be established through playing the Collar Grab Game, which is game one in the Connected Dog Series. Your dog can be in a sit, down or stand (but don't cue those positions).

How to Play ~ The Learning Happens In The Gaps

Reinforcement Process

Follow the 3 step process when delivering a treat to your dog: Start with a smile because you love your dog.

Step 1 - Open your hand,

Step 2 - Pick up a treat,

Step 3 - Say "cookie" or your word and deliver the treat to your dog.

You are evaluating your dog's choices in each of the 3 steps. Good choice by your dog means the reinforcement is delivered by you!

If your dog moves forward for the treat in Step 1 your hand closes.

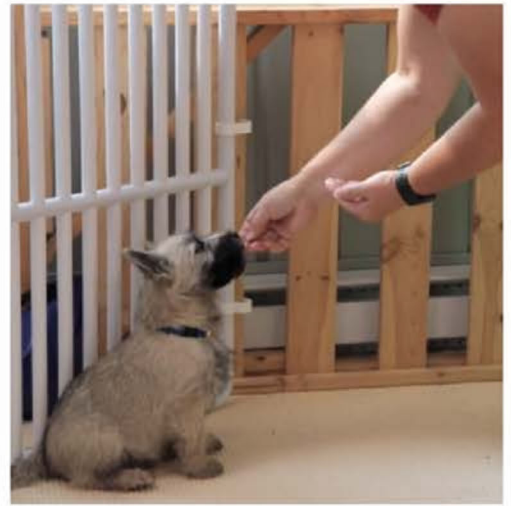
If your dog moves forward in Step 2 when you pick up the treat in your open hand, the treat goes back into your hand, and your hand closes.

If your dog moves after your hand is open and you have picked up the treat and are moving it forward to your dog, the treat stops moving until your dog makes his next choice. It may be that you put the treat back and close your hand. It may be that just the act of stopping the forward motion is enough for your dog to remember good choices.

In this game, your choices help your dog think about their choices!



ItsYerChoice at this level is you being able to walk by with food in your hand and your dog making good choices. You could also use a dog bowl with treats inside. Move the treats in your hand or bowl. If your dog jumps up or paws you, just stop your motion and be quiet and calm. Reinforce your dog's good choices. Reinforcement builds behavior. Remember that learning happens in the gaps.

[illegible]

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IYC Sitting Down ~ Treats Are Closer To Your Dog

Sit in a comfortable chair, take a handful of treats, and present your hand, anchoring your elbow against your knee. It's important to anchor your elbow, giving it support so your hand won't move when your dog investigates the treats. Your dog's behavior earns them the reinforcement. Your hand being open or closed gives your dog information. Reinforce good choices. The learning happens in the gaps.



Anchor your elbow against your knee. Remember the reinforcement process for delivering the treat to your dog.

[illegible]

IYC Intro To Tenting

Eventually you can put all the cookies in a pile on the floor.



If your dog comes in to get the cookies, rather than closing your hand over them, make a tent with it. Once again say and do nothing and wait until your dog moves away from your hand. When they do, lift up your hand. Remember to keep your good rewarding mechanics in practice.



When your dog has the foundations of tenting, you can use it to help them remember their good choices.

IYC In Different Positions

Your dog can be in any position, so reinforce your dog in a sit, down, or stand. Always maintain your good reinforcement process so that your dog can learn in the gaps.



When you grow the understanding of ItsYerChoice, you'll have a way to communicate with your dog.
