

Basic Foundation Training

“Sit & Point” Alert Behavior

12/2005 Draft updated 12/2007

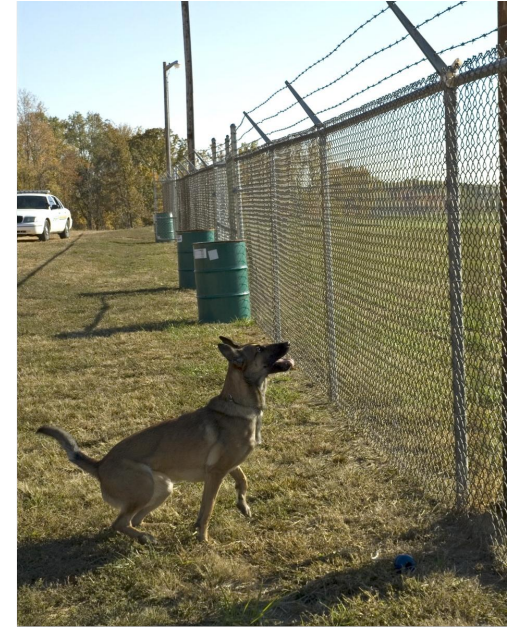
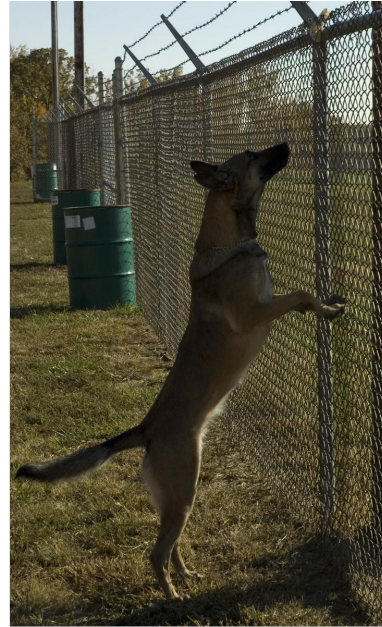


With the **K-9 BSD**
Behavior Shaping Device

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Overview

- The power of the K-9 BSD is the ability to instantly divorce (total separation) the handler from an active reward. This equals true prey to the dog. While at same time allowing trainer control of the reinforcement to shape desired behavior.



- The dog also self discovers that the action is at odor source. Offering behaviors such as returning to odor source with toy and re-alerting for more of the game.
- Initial and maintenance training can take place in real work settings creating behavior generalization and efficiency in training.

Dog Selection

Strong prey drive ✓

*If it moves will pursue
Kong, ball, or towel.*

*Will pursue under, over
through most anything.*

Behavior control ✓

*Behavior can be
controlled in a distracting
environment with toy.*



Strong Hunt Drive ✓

*Uses nose versus visual
displays active sniffing
and search behavior.*

*Hunt endurance with a
will not give up attitude.*

Retrieve drive ✓

*Naturally returns with
toy for more but can be
reluctant to give up.
(possessive)*

It all starts here!

Reward Use

Initial odor and hunt behavior cue is trained with odor imprinting ball. Step-1



A variety of rewards may be used once dog is ready for alert training. Step-2



Random use of towel, tennis ball, Kong's (red, blue) or rubber ball is recommended. Each produces different odors. The dog will be extinction trained to disregard reward odors on wall and containers with matching components. Once used in real work settings for training or maintenance. The only odor ever consistent with reinforcement should be the target odor.

Device should be adjusted for 12" to 18" of ejection. Less delivery equals closer alerts.

Step 1 Condition initial odor & search cue

Dog is conditioned to search cue such as “find It” by hiding ball in cover, debris pile, vehicle, etc. Dog is then sent off lead with timely praise and play for locating.

Only when the dog is showing hunt on cue “ find it” to target odor source is the alert behavior trained.

Rubber balls, tennis balls & Kong's have an abundant odor of their own. Our ***Odor Imprinting Balls*** have minimal odor of their own, made of a heavy wall poly plastic. Holes are evenly distributed in them to allow the odor of the training aid you put inside to be the most abundant odor source. Place your training aid into small cotton bag (*part of BSD-2 Kit*) and insert into the ball slot. A nylon string is also attached for drive building or playing tug.

Recommended initial odor:

Cadaver: 2 oz

Narcotics: 2 grams marijuana

Explosives: 2 oz smokeless powder



Alert behavior training information:

Condition dog to a release cue for use when device is faded.

Pick a verbal cue, such as “yes”, to use just before release with remote. It will become a conditioned cue to the dog that reward is available at odor source.

The dog will also become conditioned to “click of device” cueing availability.

The dog can stay focused on odor indication, without trying to anticipate the when ? and where ? reward will become available. It will be real clear for dog that on cue “yes” or click of device reward is available at odor source.

The benefits of release cue is that it allows time for handler to present reward at odor source, while maintaining alert and accurate timing of reinforcement.

Step 2 Train initial “sit & point”

The dog is set up for success & self learning during initial sit by:
Has been adequately conditioned to target odor in step 1. (*displays odor recognition*)
Odor and device in elevated position fostering a “proud sit position” with wall kit.
Train on non slick floor surface during initial sit. (*otherwise this may cause a stand*)



Alternative method is to put on shelving in plywood box

Device should be adjusted for less delivery when used horizontally (see reward use)

Dog on lead is given search cue “find it”. Directed by hand to wall ports. If the dog responds to distracter reward give a “uh uh” (*no reward marker*) and keep moving to correct port.

When dog shows odor response (*attempts to dig out or mouth*), the sit cue is given (*if needed*) with reinforcement and praise following the correct behavior. Keep training short in beginning. Always quit on a good response while the dog wants more.

Once dog offers a correct unassisted alert begin sending off lead. Begin conditioning release cue with each correct response the release cue “yes” is now used remainder of training at reward release followed with praise and play.

Note:

A 15' belt type Flexi-lead is a great tool freedom for handler to keep moving with easy access to Velcro mounted transmitter.



Move to BSD containers when dog can perform 8 consecutive (unassisted) alert responses.

Step 3 Conditioning on BSD containers

The BSD containers are designed to visually present reward. How the dog learns is from using his nose & locating target odor, not visually.

With dog on lead, search cue is given and directed to each opening. The instant he sits, cue “yes” praise and play. When dog requires no assistance the next session, go off lead. Use a mixture of off and on lead throughout all training.



Move to fading device when dog can perform 8 consecutive (unassisted) alert responses.

K-9 BSD Container additional information

Primary use is for extinction of non target odors, extinction of visual, training new target odors and maintenance training.

Designed to present **target odor in a concentrated and confined area** at container entry with **visual and non target odor uniformity between containers**. During conditioning the dog easily recognizes that the target odor is the only thing not uniform. This makes training of additional odors easier, as the dog will show some form of interest and is cued the sit. This usually requires the cue only once. When training new odors all containers get exact matching rewards.



The adapter plate should always be used

Quote:

“Trainers and handlers tend to focus on the quantity of training aids used as defined by weight, dogs respond to the vapor concentration of signature compounds not weight. Dogs should be trained to pay attention to a range of concentrations.”

Source: Canine Detection Capabilities R&D Findings @ Auburn University

STEP 4 Begin fading device

The dog should now be conditioned to both the release cue “yes” & click of device signaling reward availability. Continue on containers but now walk up during alert and give release cue “yes” and present reward at source. The key here is to be consistent. Only give “yes” when on point. If dog looks up to handler (momentary head check is ok) just wait it out when back on point “yes”.

Mix it up between device and hand delivery. Begin to lengthen alert time. Use a variable ratio in seconds 7,2,5,1,3 etc.

Neutralize dog to handler by walking up with toy in hand and back out giving release cue from distance and reward with device.

Do twelve more reinforcements on containers and move onto behavior generalization step 5 while continuing to work on all of the above.

Step 5 Behavior generalization

Begin training with a variety of different props and in variety of different environments.
Train in environments that dog will be employed in.



Use off lead as much as possible. This allows dog to work in its natural hunt behavior.
This also allows handler to observe changes in behavior from a stand off position.
Continue working on fading device, begin to increase search times & difficulty

Additional odors may be trained now. See step 3

Dog should also learn to discover on his own by setting up hide in unfamiliar area. Dog is set up to be down wind. Handler releases dog like it is break time, no cues and ignores. When dog discovers & alerts he is reinforced with the K-9 BSD coupled with praise and play.

It is also some time during the behavior generalization (if not before) that the dog will begin returning to odor source for more of the game. Watch for it and reinforce with major praise and play.

Conclusion basic foundation training

Note: The K-9 BSD is a unique tool when coupled with a proper training protocol can assure that the odor vapor signature being trained is effective. It is the end user's responsibility to determine what protocol best fits their requirements. What has been presented is a basic overview of Passive alert foundation training.

If you an end user and have any questions or input please feel free to contact us.

info@ k-9bsd.com or **715-864-3327**

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