

# How LCT Gives TLC Every Step of the Way!

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(LCT Inc.)

Dog training is serious business; in some cases it can determine whether a dog stays with his owners or will be taken to a shelter. I am a positive dog trainer and I use praise, treats and love as a way to help connect the dog I am training with their owner and visa versa.

Loving Canine Transformations, Inc., will work with you and your dog or puppy to help you gain a better understanding of what is causing the challenges that you are encountering and to help you manage your dog so that you can set him up to succeed. I can help you overcome issues like house training, excessive barking, jumping, leash reactivity, leash pulling, fear of men, fear of visitors, etc. These challenges are not fixed overnight, but with patience and consistency, you will see positive changes.

Most dogs are very food motivated. If you can get their nose working and capture their focus, if even to see where the next treat is coming from, you are making progress. Some may wonder if their dog is really learning the new skill because they are focusing on getting a treat, but I can tell you, YES, they are learning. It is important to “mark” the behavior the second your dog sits, for example, with a “YES” or “Good Job,” treat and give some love before you move on. This will eventually enable you to wean off the treats. However, initially, while your dog is learning a new skill/behavior, it is important to pay him via treats. After all, we are very motivated to learn and work when we have a paycheck coming, so why would it be any different for our dog?

It doesn't matter how old your dog is, how long he has been doing a behavior that is inappropriate, or why you feel changing the behavior is necessary, you can do it and training with treats can help. I had a 10 year old dog that needed to work on coming inside the house when she was called. When I called her to come into the house, if she didn't come to me after the first call, I would take a treat and go right to her, put it directly in front of her, on her nose, and lead her into the house. Once she passed the threshold of the slider, I would close the slider and she would get her treat. I continued doing this consistently until I was able to call her and she would come into the house. Again, I closed the slider behind her and gave her the treat. She never got the treat when she was outside. She got the treat for coming inside the house when I called her. If she starts to slip up on her response, I start from scratch and go out with a treat to her nose and guide her back inside again. It is essential that I always follow up if she isn't responding to my call. A follow up would be going out to her and leading her inside, either with a treat or without.

The most important of all, is that I NEVER yell at her for not responding. I want her to WANT to come to me. Coming to me should fun and happy not with fear of being scolded. It should be about receiving treats, praise and love. Praise what you want your dog to do and ignore the behaviors you don't want. Praise will win!