

Quiet Cue



Teaching Speak:

While it sounds counterintuitive, one way to control a dog's excitement barking is to put a behavior on cue. Once it is on cue (Speak), you can then introduce the Quiet behavior. To teach Speak, the owner needs to find something her dog will bark excitedly at, such as a toy or the sound of another dog barking. When her dog barks at the stimulus, she gives the marker (click, "Yes," etc.) and then gives him praise and a reward.

Once her dog reliably barks, she introduces the verbal cue "Speak." After several sessions, the owner stops using the stimulus and gives only the verbal cue. Once the dog is reliably barking on cue, she can begin teaching the Quiet cue.

Note: Tone matters when giving a dog a cue. You should always use an upbeat, positive voice and never shout or yell a cue.



Steps to teaching quiet:

1. Inside your limited distraction house have a pouch full of treats.
2. While he is barking, she places a treat in front of his nose. (your dog can't bark and sniff at the same time) As her dog stops barking even for a second or during a breath between the barks, mark it with a "yes" and then reward it with a treat.
3. When he reliably stops barking, she can add the verbal cue, "Quiet," "Enough" or "Shush." She does this by giving the cue "Quiet" just before placing the treat in front of her dog's nose. Mark with a "yes" and reward with the treat.
4. Start rewarding her for a longer bark, and work on 5-second quiet or 10-second quiet. If you push your dog to failure, take a step back, and make her stay quiet for a shorter time.
5. After several sessions, the owner gives her dog only the verbal cue. When the dog reliably stops barking on cue, she can begin working with him in your yard.
6. Repeat steps 3 and 4 outside of your house. Once you are quiet on cue outside your house start taking your dog for walks and ask for the quiet cue. If your dog won't listen with more distractions move further away or go back to working in your yard again.

Hand signal: pointer finger to your mouth.

Verbal cue: "Quiet"/ "Enough" / "Shush."

