

Reward or Bribe?

WHAT MOTIVATES YOUR DOG?

A bribe is something that causes a behavior to happen by enticing the dog. For example, your dog is out in the yard and won't come in, so you shake a box of cookies to bribe him in. This isn't really a bad thing, but it isn't training either.

A reward, on the other hand, is something that occurs only **after** a behavior happens. A reward reinforces the likelihood that the behavior will happen again. For instance, you call your dog and he comes to you; you offer a treat and release him back to play again.

Positive Reinforcement

FOOD REWARDS:

To prevent your dog from getting diarrhea, don't give him too much of any one thing. Here are some yummy ideas for treats:

- Boiled chicken
- Boiled hamburger
- Popcorn
- Cooked tortellini or other types of pasta
- Bread (bagel pieces work great)
- Carrots
- Bananas
- Dried fruit (**not raisins**, which can be toxic to dogs)
- Cheerios or other types of cereal
- Freeze-dried liver (found in pet stores and supply catalogs)
- Cooked hot dogs

Physical Affection

Praise

NON-FOOD REWARDS:

- A short game of fetch
- A short game of tug
- A short game of catch
- Hide a toy and go find it together
- A toss of a Frisbee
- Chase a stream of bubbles
- Lots of happy praise and baby talk
- Vigorous petting and happy talk
- Flashlight tag (have your dog chase the light beam)
- A stuffed dog toy
- A stuffed dog toy that makes noise
- A squeaky toy with an obnoxious squeaker