

# Training Theory



We use a "Positive Reinforcement" method to train puppies. That means we use two quadrants of learning theory, which we call **Positive Reinforcement** and **Removal Penalty**. Let's break that down.



- **Reinforcement** is anything that makes a behavior or action **more** likely to happen in the future.
- **Penalty** is anything that makes a behavior or action **less** likely to happen in the future.
- **Positive** means something is **added**, like a treat or toy.
- **Removal** means something is **removed**, like a bone, toy, or an open door being closed.

For example, if puppy rushes for the door when we open it, we would use **Removal Penalty** and close the door, removing the possibility of going outside. When the puppy reacts by doing something good like backing up or sitting nicely, we follow with **Positive Reinforcement**, marking the action with a "good job!" or "Yes!" and the door opening again so they can go outside.

“Removal Penalty” is meant to calmly—and without old-fashioned, aversive, or punishing techniques—help lead the dog into a behavior where Positive Reinforcement can be given. With the Positive Reinforcement method, you will never yell at, chase, or strike your dog—something which could cause incredible harm to their trust in you and to their training.

**Basically, the Positive Reinforcement method we will be following is this:**

**Teach** what you want.

**Reinforce** what you like.

**Redirect** what you don't.