

## Positive Reinforcement Training - Training Rewards and Value

Before your first session, we recommend doing a “survey” of treats that your dog finds the most value in so that we can use them during the session. Since we will be using positive reinforcement methods during our training, we find that food is often the best reward for your dog.

We must remember that value is in **your dog's eyes**, not ours. So, even if we think something like boiled chicken is a good treat, your dog may not agree. We are discovering your dog's preferences so that we can use them to our advantage. Since we, as humans, can relate to being paid for the work that we do, let's refer to the rewards we give our dogs in terms we can understand: Money!

**\$1 bills = Crunchy treats like “Charlie Bears” or your dog's kibble.**

**\$10 bills = Soft treats like “Pupperoni”, “Zuke's”, or other commercial training treats**

**\$50 bills = Boiled chicken, freeze-dried beef or liver, etc.**

**\$100 bills = Peanut butter or cream cheese in a squeeze tube, cheese, bacon, etc.**



Once you have a good variety of valued treats, make sure these treats are in very small pieces, no larger than your pinky nail, so we can get the most bang for our buck. Remember, dogs have over 100 million scent receptors (were humans only have about 6 million) so they don't need to have much of the food to experience it's value!

Don't worry, over time and with practice, the rate at which you will have to reward your dog will decrease until you're only rewarding them now and then or for really exceptional behaviors. But, we have to start out strong!

