



# HOW DOGS LEARN

## CONSEQUENCES

Dogs do what works! When something pays off for them, they're more likely to do that behavior again.

We use this type of learning most often when we teach basic obedience skills.

DOG SITS AND GETS A COOKIE FOR SITTING. DOG SITS MORE.



DOG JUMPS ON THE COUNTER AND SNAGS SOME YUMMY SNACKS. DOG JUMPS ON THE COUNTER MORE TO CHECK FOR SNACKS.

DOG JUMPS UP ON PEOPLE WHEN GREETING. PEOPLE PET DOG AND GIVE IT ATTENTION. JUMPING INCREASES.



## ASSOCIATIONS

Dogs are great dot-connectors! They are learning all the time (even if we aren't trying to teach them) when one thing reliably predicts another.

We use this type of learning most often with fearful or aggressive dogs.

YOU PICK UP THE LEASH. DOG GOES FOR A WALK. DOG LEARNS YOU PICKING UP THE LEASH RELIABLY PREDICTS WALKS



DOORBELL RINGS. VISITORS APPEARS. DOG LEARNS DOORBELL RELIABLY PREDICTS SOMEONE SHOWING UP.

YOU PUT YOUR SHOES ON AND LEAVE. DOG LEARNS THAT PRE-DEPARTURE CUES RELIABLY PREDICTS BEING LEFT AT HOME.

