

## Luring

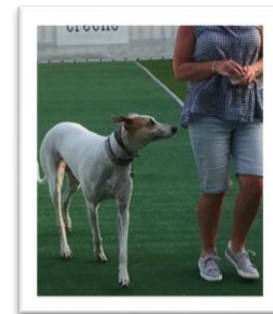
Before teaching a new behaviour, we select our learning strategy.



Luring is a directed learning strategy, a demonstration for the dogs, explaining what you would like them to do clearly and consistently. It is for this reason that luring is particularly effective for young and sensitive dogs, it helps them learn with minimal stress.

### What is a lure?

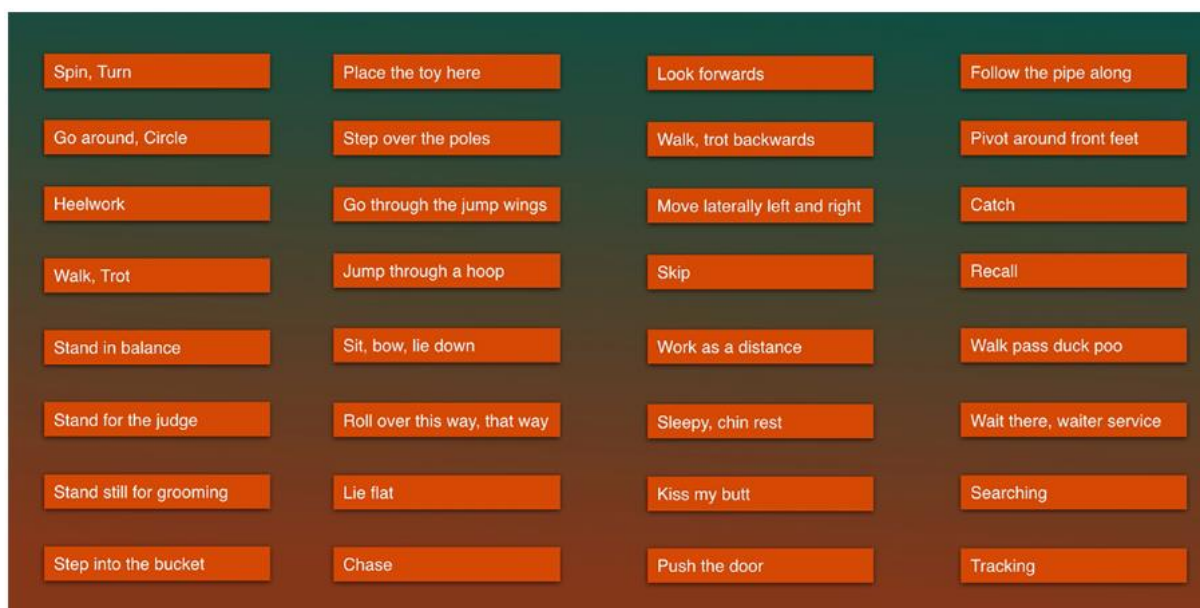
A lure is anything a dog will follow – a scent, object, movement, food, or toy. Nature provides plenty of lures from squirrels to autumn leaves. The scent of mother's milk lures a pup to the nipple to ensure survival. We do not teach a dog to be lured, they are pre-programmed for this. Rather we select specific lures that are attached to behaviours, cues, and rewards.



### Luring with food

Developing the skills of luring with food will allow you to teach your dog a wide range of behaviours.

This list was produced by my teacher and mentor Kay Laurence [www.learningaboutdogs.com](http://www.learningaboutdogs.com)



When working with food, your hands need to signal clearly what you expect the dog to do. The dog should be left in no doubt as to whether they should follow the food or eat the food. Confusion between the two can result in bitten fingers. Some rehearsal without your dog is recommended.

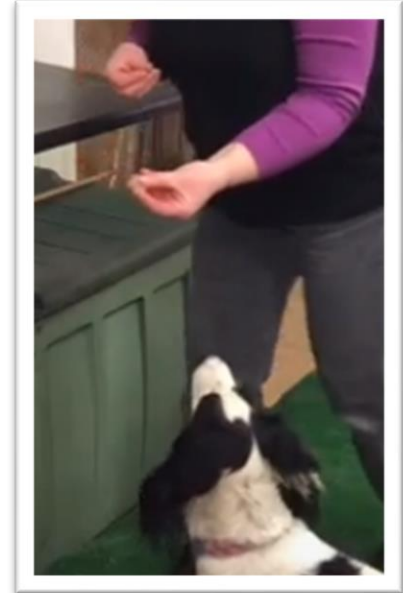
In classes we work through three steps of luring

### **Step One – Pick up the food and engage the dog**

At this stage the dog should understand that just because the food is coming out of the container, it does not mean they get to eat it.

For this reason, the hand you collect the treat with is never the same hand you feed with.

You can teach this by collecting with one hand, before transferring the food to the other hand for feeding. Collect the food with one hand and transfer to a bowl, cup or other container for feeding.



### **Step Two – Use the food lure to cue the dog to follow**

Moving the food away from the dog will elicit a follow response.



However, we need to be clear that this means follow not eat.

To communicate this clearly, we use a pointy hand gesture (see picture above). The dog learns that this hand shape means 'follow'.

### Step 3 – Deliver the food

To communicate that the food is 'now available for eating', we use a flat hand gesture.



### Putting it all together

The three stages can be seen in this video

<https://youtu.be/aSCyk7Ufu8>

### What next?

If you are struggling with luring or any other aspects of your dog's behaviour then we are here to help. Please check out our website or social media for details of how to get in touch with us. Video consultations available so distance is no longer a barrier to learning.

Have fun and enjoy learning with your dogs