



Teaching “Come When Called”

Coming When Called (aka a “recall”) is a behavior that is defined by the cat orienting toward the human and approaching the human. Most commonly, this behavior is complete once the cat has come within inches of the human who is calling her. It could even end by the cat jumping into a waiting human lap for positive attention!

Below you will see tips on teaching this behavior with four different training methods. When training a behavior, there can be more than one way to get to the goal behavior. Use the method that gives you and your cat the best chance of success!

CAPTURING

- While watching your cat, wait for her to approach you.
- As soon as she is within inches of you, click, then reinforce.
- You can even choose to put this behavior on cue. A common verbal cue for this behavior is “come.”

LURING

- While holding the lure, move the lure toward you. If you are in a room where the cat can follow you, you can even back up a few steps to encourage your cat to approach you. Keep the lure as close to you as you want the cat to approach.
- When your cat approaches you within a few inches as a result of visually following the lure, click, then reinforce.
- You can choose to put this behavior on cue. A common visual cue for this behavior is moving your hand (palm open and facing toward you) by bending your elbow. Go from an outstretched, straight arm to 90° bend in your elbow.

TARGETING

- Hold the target so that the point you want the cat to touch is within inches of you.
- When the cat touches the target she should be within inches of you. Click, then reinforce.
- You can put this behavior on cue by using any of the cues listed above. Additionally, you may also choose to use a different visual cue such as a “point” from your hand to a location near you.

SHAPING

- The successive approximations for this behavior may include:
 - Turning head toward you
 - Turning body toward you
 - Taking one step toward you
 - Taking two steps toward you
 - Taking three or more steps toward you
 - Approaching you until she is within inches of you
- Remember to click, then reinforce each step only a few times before moving onto the next step in your shaping plan.
- You can put this behavior on cue using any of the cues listed above.



Teaching “Eye Contact”

Eye Contact is a behavior that is defined by the cat looking at the trainer and making direct eye contact. In contrast to a stare, both human and cat should be looking at one another with soft eyes. You may even observe slow blinking from the cat, which is a positive sign.

Below you will see tips on teaching this behavior with four different training methods. When training a behavior, there can be more than one way to get to the goal behavior. Use the method that gives you and your cat the best chance of success!

CAPTURING

- While watching your cat, wait for him to make eye contact with you.
- As soon as he does so, click, then reinforce.
- You can even choose to put this behavior on cue. A common verbal cue for this behavior is “look” or “watch me.”

LURING

- While holding the lure, move it up to the location at the top of the bridge of your nose, located between your eyes.
- When your cat makes eye contact as a result of visually following the lure, click, then reinforce.
- You can choose to put this behavior on cue. A common visual cue for this behavior is touching your nose or pointing toward your eyes.

TARGETING

- This behavior is not easily taught with targeting unless you intend to have the cat touch your nose with his nose and make eye contact. You can do it though!
- Place the target on the end of your nose.
- As your cat moves toward and touches the target while facing you, click, then reinforce.
- You can choose to put this behavior on cue. You can use the visual or verbal cues listed above.

SHAPING

- The successive approximations for this behavior may include:
 - Turning head toward you
 - Turning head toward your face
 - Looking in your direction
 - Making eye contact
- You can put this behavior on cue using any of the cue listed above.



Teaching “Roll Over”

“Roll Over” is a behavior that can be defined in two ways. A partial roll over (180°) is defined by the cat moving from laying one side of his body to the opposite side by “rolling” on his back. The cat starting from a “down” position and rolling to the left or right, ending in the same position from which he started, defines a full roll over (360°).

Below you will see tips on teaching this behavior with four different training methods. When training a behavior, there can be more than one way to get to the goal behavior. Use the method that gives you and your cat the best chance of success!

CAPTURING

- While watching your cat, wait for him to roll over.
- As soon as he completely rolls over (partial or full – it is up to you!), click, then reinforce.
- You can even choose to put this behavior on cue. A common verbal cue for this behavior is “Roll Over.”

LURING

- Hold the lure in your hand.
 - Partial Roll Over: While your cat is lying on one side, place the lure directly in front of his nose. Move the lure in a “rainbow” motion that encourages him to move his head from one side to the other.
 - Full Roll Over: While your cat is lying down, hold the lure in front of his nose. In a circular motion, move the lure around the cat’s head (passing over the shoulder area).
- When the cat follows the lure by:
 - Partial Roll Over: moving his head from one side to the other his body is likely to follow, click, then reinforce.
 - Full Roll Over: shifting his weight onto one side (shoulders and hips will shift separately), then onto his back, next onto the opposite side, and finally back onto his stomach in a “down” position, click, then reinforce.
- You can choose to put this behavior on cue. A common visual cue for this behavior is using your pointer finger to make the “rainbow” motion from one side of the cat to the other.

TARGETING

- Hold the target so that the point you want the cat to touch is just above the cat.
 - Partial Roll Over: Move the target in the same motion as described above in luring.
 - Full Roll Over: Move the target in the same motion as described above in luring.
- After the cat completes the motion (partial or full), hold the target directly in front of the cat’s nose. When the cat touches the target, click and reinforce.
- You can put this behavior on cue by using any of the cues listed above.



Teaching “Fetch”

“Fetch” is a behavior defined by the cat bringing an object to you and dropping it in front of you. It is usually easiest if you use softer objects that are easy for the cat to pick up his/her mouth.

Below you will see tips on teaching this behavior with four different training methods. When training a behavior, there can be more than one way to get to the goal behavior. Use the method that gives you and your cat the best chance of success!

CAPTURING

- Place an object in front of the cat.
- When the cat brings you the object, dropping it in front of you, click, then reinforce. You may also then pick up the item and toss it away from you encouraging the cat to repeat the behavior.
- You can even choose to put this behavior on cue. A common verbal cue for this behavior is “Fetch.”

LURING

- Hold the lure in your hand. After the cat picks up the object, move your hand (you may also need to walk away with cat following you) a few feet away from where the cat picked up the object to encourage the cat to follow you.
- When the cat follows the lure a few feet, stop moving. When the cat drops the object, click, then reinforce. You may also then pick up the item and toss it away from you encouraging the cat to repeat the behavior.
- You can choose to put this behavior on cue. A common visual cue for this behavior is picking up and tossing the object.

TARGETING

- After the cat has picked up the object, hold the target at your feet or wherever you want the cat to bring the object.
- After the cat brings the object to that location and touches the target, click, then reinforce. If the cat is not dropping the object before touching the target, you can choose to prevent the cat’s physical access to the target until he drops the object.
- You can put this behavior on cue by using any of the cues listed above.

SHAPING

- The successive approximations for fetch may include:
 - Cat touches object with nose.
 - Cat puts mouth on/around object.
 - Cat picks up object with mouth. (It is okay if the cat immediately drops object after picking it up at this step.)
 - Incrementally increase how long the cat holds the object in his mouth.
 - Cat carries object toward you. (You may need to increase how far the cat has to carry the object incrementally.)

- Cat carries object to you (or your chosen area) and drops object.
 - You toss object a short distance away, cat goes to object and repeats first five steps.
 - Incrementally increase the distance away from you that you toss the object.
- Remember to click, then reinforce each step only a few times before moving onto the next step in your shaping plan.
- You can put this behavior on cue using any of the cues listed above.



Teaching “Sit Pretty”

“Sit Pretty” is a behavior that is defined by the cat raising her front feet off the ground while sitting. The cat will be in a completely vertical position when successfully completing this behavior.

Below you will see tips on teaching this behavior with four different training methods. When training a behavior, there can be more than one way to get to the goal behavior. Use the method that gives you and your cat the best chance of success!

CAPTURING

- While watching your cat, wait for her to sit vertically with her front paws off the ground.
- As soon as she reaches this position, click, then reinforce.
- You can even choose to put this behavior on cue. A common verbal cue for this behavior is “Sit Pretty.”

LURING

- Hold the lure in your hand. Slowly move the lure up and over the cat’s head. When the cat is in a “sit” position, continue to move the lure further behind the cat, encouraging her to place her body weight completely on her back legs/hips. Then, move the lure up directly above the cat (they may even paw at the lure).
- When the cat follows the lure by raising their front paws while sitting completely on her back legs/hips, click, then reinforce.
- You can choose to put this behavior on cue. A common visual cue for this behavior is moving your hand in a “J” motion in front of the cat.

TARGETING

- Hold the target so that the point you want the cat to touch is just above and behind the cat’s head. You may need to move the target initially to encourage the motion of sitting back into the cat’s back legs/hips.
- When the cat touches the target while sitting only on her back legs/hips, click, then reinforce.
- You can put this behavior on cue by using any of the cues listed above.

SHAPING

- The successive approximations for “sit pretty” may include:
 - Cat sits
 - Cat shifts weight from front legs to back legs/hips
 - Cat picks up front legs while sitting
 - Incrementally increase how long the cat holds her front legs off ground while in a sit.
- Remember to click, then reinforce each step only a few times before moving onto the next step in your shaping plan.
- You can put this behavior on cue using any of the cues listed above.



Teaching “High Five,” Give Me Ten,” and “Wave”

“High Five” is a behavior that is defined by the cat placing a paw against a human hand. “High Ten” is a variation of this behavior that requires the cat to place both paws against human hands. “Wave” is yet another version where the cat does not make contact with their paw, but rather repeatedly “waves” their paw up and down.

Below you will see tips on teaching this behavior with four different training methods. When training a behavior, there can be more than one way to get to the goal behavior. Use the method that gives you and your cat the best chance of success!

CAPTURING HIGH FIVE

- While watching your cat, wait for him to touch your hand with his paw.
 - *For Give Me Ten:* Wait for him to touch your hand(s) with both paws.
 - *For Wave:* Wait for him to repeatedly move his paw up and down.
- As soon as he touches your hand with his paw, click, then reinforce.
 - *For Give Me Ten:* Click, then reinforce as soon as he touches your hand(s) with both paws.
 - *For Wave:* Click, then reinforce as soon as he waves his paw up and down at least once.
- You can even choose to put this behavior on cue. A common verbal cue for this behavior is “High Five.”
 - *For Give Me Ten:* A common verbal cue for this behavior is “Give Me Ten.”
 - *For Wave:* A common verbal cue for this behavior is “Wave.”

LURING HIGH FIVE

- Hold the lure in between your thumb and open palm. When your cat uses his paw to reach out to touch your palm, move your hand up so your palm is facing the cat.
 - *For Give Me Ten:* You can move one or both hands toward the cat and slightly upward to encourage the cat to put both paws on your hands. This behavior will require the cat to balance on their back legs/hips.
 - *For Wave:* As the cat reaches a paw toward the lure, move the lure up and down repeatedly just outside of the cat’s reach.
- When the cat follows the lure by moving his paw and then makes contact with your hand, click, then reinforce.
 - *For Give Me Ten:* Click, then reinforce as soon as both paws make contact with your hand.
 - *For Wave:* Click, then reinforce after your cat moves his paw up and down at least once.
- You can choose to put this behavior on cue. A common visual cue for this behavior is placing your open palm facing the cat (fingers pointing upward) at about the cat’s shoulder level.
 - *For Give Me Ten:* A common visual cue is placing both hands, open palms facing the cat (fingers pointing upward) at about the cat’s shoulder level.
 - *For Wave:* A common visual cue is moving your hand up and down, palm facing down. Alternatively, you can repeatedly bend all fingers where your fingers join your hand.



Teaching “Jump (over or through)”

“Jump” over an object or through a hoop is a behavior defined by the cat jumping from one side of an object (over or through) to the other side of the same object. Initially it may be easier to place the object directly on the floor, allowing the cat to walk over/through the object. As the cat gains confidence, you can begin slowly to move the object off the floor requiring the cat to jump over/through the object.

Below you will see tips on teaching this behavior with four different training methods. When training a behavior, there can be more than one way to get to the goal behavior. Use the method that gives you and your cat the best chance of success!

CAPTURING

- Place an object in front of the cat.
- When the cat jumps over or through the object, click as soon as the cat lands on the other side of the object and quickly provide a reinforcer.
- You can even choose to put this behavior on cue. A common verbal cue for this behavior is “Jump.”

LURING

- Hold the lure in your hand. Place your hand in front of the cat, moving it over/through the object.
- When the cat follows the lure by jumping over/through the object, click, then reinforce.
- You can choose to put this behavior on cue. A common visual cue for this behavior is moving your finger from the “start” to the “finish.”

TARGETING

- Hold the target so that the point you want the cat to touch is just over/through the object you would like them to jump. Over several repetitions, slowly move the target until it is on the other side of the object.
- After jumping over/through the object, when the cat touches the target, click, then reinforce.
- You can put this behavior on cue by using any of the cues listed above.

SHAPING

- The successive approximations for jump may include:
 - Walk toward object
 - Walk over/through object with front feet
 - Walk over/through object with all four feet
 - Raise object .5 inch from floor, repeat first three steps
 - Raise object 1 inch from floor, repeat first three steps
 - Continue to raise object to desired height in .5 inch increments, repeating first three steps at each new height.
- Remember to click, then reinforce each step only a few times before moving onto the next step in your shaping plan.
- You can put this behavior on cue using any of the cues listed above.



Teaching “Sit”

Sit is a behavior that is defined by the cat bending her back legs and resting her hips on the floor while her front legs remain extended.

Below you will see tips on teaching this behavior with four different training methods. When training a behavior, there can be more than one way to get to the goal behavior. Use the method that gives you and your cat the best chance of success!

CAPTURING

- While watching your cat, wait for her to place herself in a sitting position.
- As soon as she sits, click, then reinforce.
- You can even choose to put this behavior on cue. A common verbal cue for this behavior is “sit.”

LURING

- While holding the lure, move it just above the cat’s head and back toward her ears. The cat should tip her head up to follow the lure. If you are holding the lure at the right distance, she will start to bend her back legs to follow the lure. This will result in a “sit” position.
- As soon as your cat completes the “sit” position, click, then reinforce.
- You can choose to put this behavior on cue. A common visual cue for this behavior is moving your hand (palm open and facing upward) from about the cat’s chest level to above their head.

TARGETING

- Hold the target so that the point you want the cat to touch is just above and slightly behind her head. Touching the target with her nose should put her in a “sit” position.
- As soon as your cat completes the “sit” position, click, then reinforce.
- You can put this behavior on cue by using any of the cues listed above.

SHAPING

- The successive approximations for this behavior may include:
 - Starting to bend back legs at the knees
 - Bending back legs half way at the knees
 - Bending back legs fully while resting hips on the floor and keeping front legs extended
- Remember to click, then reinforce each step only a few times before moving onto the next step in your shaping plan.
- You can put this behavior on cue using any of the cues listed above.