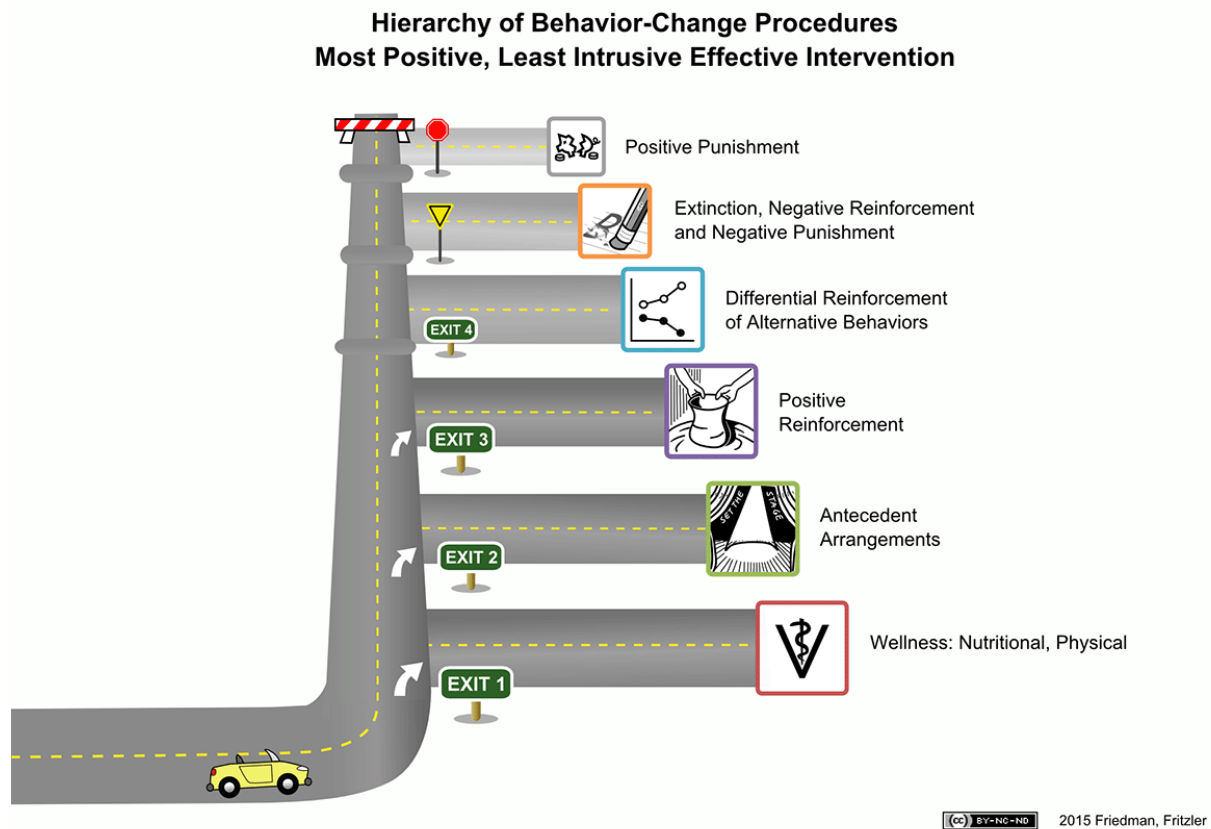


Compass Key Training Methods

Compass Key trainers will use ethical training methods consistent with the following charts. They will always start at the first exit and proceed to the next exit in order, after exhausting all options at the previous exit. Note the speed bumps and traffic signs before certain exits. Clients should always consult their Compass Key trainer before moving to an exit beyond a speed bump or sign. Please also note that the Humane Hierarchy applies to operant learning and should not be used with behaviors that are based in fear or aggression. Compass Key trainers should use techniques such as classical or counter conditioning in these cases.

The goal is to use the least invasive method possible at all times, building your dog's skills and confidence along the way. Our goal should be to always stay in the green zones where training is joyous for both the trainer and the dog. Furthermore, our goal as trainers should be to always listen to the dog, strive to educate ourselves, ask questions of our peers and mentors, and ensure we are using the most ethical, scientifically sound, and productive methods possible. We owe this to ourselves, the dog, the client, and our field as a whole.



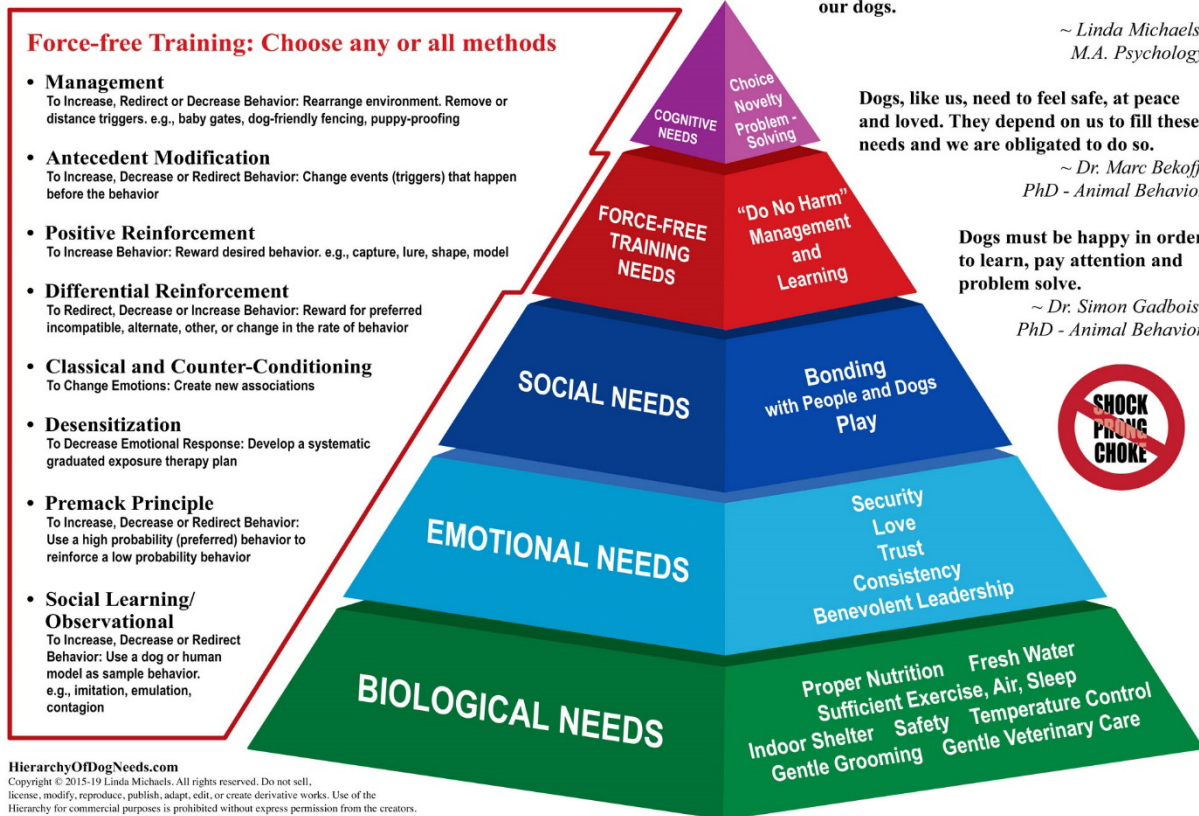
1. Wellness: Nutritional, Physical

Before moving directly into training, it is important to assess the dog's wellness in order to ensure any unwanted behaviors are not stemming from a deficit in this area. Sometimes a dog may act a certain way because they are in physical pain, have an illness, or aren't getting enough physical or

mental enrichment. Compass Key trainers will use the Hierarchy of Dog Needs to determine if a wellness deficit exists.

Hierarchy of Dog Needs®

Standards of Care and Best Force-free Practices



2. Antecedent Arrangements

An antecedent is what happens *before* the behavior and may in turn trigger the behavior. A squirrel may run in front of a dog before the dog lunges, or a person may reach down to pet a dog before the dog jumps. If it is possible to rearrange or remove antecedents, a Compass Key trainer should do so first before attempting to change a behavior. For example, if a dog is destructively chewing items when left alone, a crate should be used first to address the lack of supervision, before trying to address the destructive chewing.

3. Positive Reinforcement

Positive reinforcement techniques use rewards such as treats, toys, and praise, to increase the chances that a behavior will occur again. Often this is paired with a clicker or marker word to tell the dog when they did the desired behavior. Some examples of positive reinforcement include:

- Luring: Using food held in the hand to guide the dog into the desired position.
- Capturing: Marking and rewarding the dog when they do the desired behavior naturally.
- Shaping: Marking and rewarding the dog for performing small steps towards the desired behavior.
- Modeling: Showing the dog with your own body, or another dog, how to do the behavior.

4. Differential Reinforcement of Alternative Behaviors

Differential reinforcement of alternative behaviors means that a more desirable behavior is positively reinforced that is often incompatible with the unwanted behavior. For example, a dog is reinforced for sitting during greetings so that they don't jump. Take care to use antecedent arrangements so that extinction effects do not occur during this exit.

5. Extinction, Negative Reinforcement, and Negative Punishment

Please note the yield sign before attempting any of these techniques. All of these techniques come with the risk of being aversive to the dog, which could result in fallout such as fear, anxiety, or damage to the human-animal bond. A Compass Key trainer should consult other trainers and professionals to determine the level of aversiveness and risk of fallout of any technique at this exit before attempting to use it. These are last resort training techniques.

- Extinction: the removal of existing reinforcement to reduce or suppress an existing behavior (e.g. ignoring a dog whining in the crate).
- Negative reinforcement: the removal of an aversive once a desired behavior is exhibited (e.g. using a body block to make a dog return to a sit stay).
- Negative punishment: the removal of reinforcement to increase the chance a behavior will occur (e.g. turning your back on a dog that is jumping up).

6. Positive Punishment

Please note the stop sign present before the positive punishment exit. Compass Key trainers will not use positive punishment to train a dog due to the likelihood of negative impacts on the dog.

Acceptable Training Equipment

- Harness (Ruffwear Webmaster, Ruffwear Hi & Light, Blue-9 Balance, Petsafe 3-1)
- Leash (cloth or leather)
- Long Leash
- Collar (cloth or leather)
- Clickers
- Target sticks or target objects
- Gentle leader*
- Cloth martingale collar (no chain)*

*This equipment requires an accommodation

Training Tools Agreed NOT to be used (no particular order)

In the event that a client is already using one of the following training tools with their dog, we will actively work with them to refrain from using these techniques and help them to understand our other approved training methods instead. Compass Key trainers pledge not to use any of the following training tools while working both under and not under the company name, as we believe this policy to be about the ethical treatment of dogs:

- Shock/electronic, prong, or choke collars
- Chain martingales
- Physically kicking/hitting/kneeing/whipping
- Physical correction (including, but not limited to, gagging, muzzle holds, lip pinches,

alpha rolls)

- Leash pops/jerks where the dog's body or neck is physically moved
- Intimidation (standing over, hovering, dominance, heavy staring)
- Flooding – intentionally pushing past boundaries and taking away choice
- Bitter Apple (or other bitter tasting spray) sprayed directly in the mouth
- Anger and frustration including shouting angrily
- Throwing items