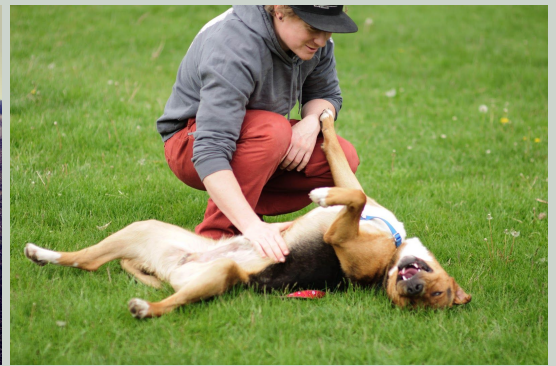




# *Tales from the Trails at Dunrovin*

## CLICKER TRAINING WITH MACKENZIE

I have been a professional trainer for 15 years, specializing in the science of behavior. Specifically, I use operant conditioning, also known as clicker training, to work with animals. I tend to work mostly with those that have been through traumatic experiences.



You might ask yourself why I use clicker training over other methods. Well, you might be surprised to know I started out using traditional methods like the kind you might see elsewhere. I was taught as kid to roll dogs on their backs and hold them down when they growled, to choke them when they pulled, and throw rocks at horses when they didn't come to me. And even worse things than that. But as I progressed in my interest in training, I chose to make the switch to all positive reinforcement training, and for good reasons.

So, why do I do clicker training? I had a long road to positive reinforcement and along the way there I did many things to my dog friends that I came to regret in the name of training them. My hope is to help save people making the mistakes I have, so that one day no pets get choked, frightened, and intimidated as part of being our companions and in payment for all the joy they bring into our homes.





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## Clicker Training

Clicker training is the art of using selective reinforcement to change behavior. A clicker looks like a toy, but it's a tool. Like any tool, You need to learn how to use it and use it appropriately or you won't see results! If you use the wrong end of a hammer, you'll put holes in your wall!



Here are some things to remember about clicker training:

- Every time you click you give a treat.
- A clicker is like a camera – take a snap shot of the behaviors you want to see.
- Keep training sessions short!
- You only need to use the clicker when things are new.
- Reteach! It's hard for animals to understand how to perform behaviors in new settings.
- You can use any novel sound, even a word!

If an animal is not succeeding, make it easier and err on the side of reteaching. A lot of people get a behavior once and think their animal “knows it.” Actually, animals don't learn like people and have a much harder time taking what they've learned in one spot and transferring it to a new context. So when you think your dog is being obstinate, you are probably be wrong! Reteach!

## Clicking with the Divas

Along the way, I wound up meeting my friends the Divas. We've got into many hijinks over the years! We've worked on wearing cool outfits, visited Santa and local businesses, and even had a romp or two around the ranch giving carrots to the bigger, less glamorous, horse folk. This winter, we are going to get back into spreading trouble together. Along the way, we will do some training too!

Be sure to check the calendar to catch us working together live and to chat with me! The Divas and I have forged a beautiful partnership in which each supports and loves the other. Join us as our story continues.

**Broadcast Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_