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Title: Should old dog trainers learn new tricks? The efficiency of the Do as I do method and shaping/clicker training method to train dogs

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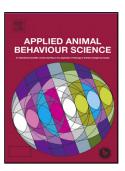
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

- 1 Should old dog trainers learn new tricks? The efficiency of the Do as I do method and shaping
- 2 / clicker training method to train dogs

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- 9 ABSTRACT
- 10 Despite evidence that dogs are skilful in acquiring information socially from humans and are 11 able to copy the actions of a human demonstrator, formal dog-training methods have 12 traditionally relied only on individual learning (operant and classical conditioning). We 13 compared the efficiency of the 'Do as I do' method (Topál et al. 2006), which relies on social 14 learning, with that of a training method that relies on individual learning (shaping/clicker 15 training - Skinner 1951) to teach dogs three different kinds of object-related actions. In order 16 to control for the comparability of the previous training experiences of our subjects, we tested 17 experienced dog-owner dyads that had previously achieved a certificate for either type of 18 training (Do as I do and shaping/clicker training). They were tested upon training three 19 different novel actions: simple, complex and sequences of two actions, in three separate 20 sessions, using the training method they were certified for. In each case the owners had 15 21 minutes for accomplishing the task of training the dogs to perform the predetermined action. 22 We used the latency of first occurrence and the number of dyads that were successful within 23 15 minutes as measures of training success. While we did not find a significant difference 24 between the two training methods with regard to simple actions, we found that subjects using 25 the Do as I do method outperformed those using shaping/clicker training in the case of 26 complex actions and sequences of two actions. This study is the first to formalize a method 27 based on the Do as I do protocol for training dogs and to assess its efficiency by comparing it 28 with shaping/clicker training. We acknowledge that many factors can influence the success of 29 different training paradigms, however, these results provide new insights for the applied dog 30 training techniques by suggesting the usefulness of social learning in addition to the widely

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- 33 KEYWORDS
- 34 Dog, Social learning, Training method, Training efficiency, Do as I do

used methods that rely on individual associative learning.

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