

TREAT BUCKETS FOR SHY DOGS

GOAL: The purpose of the treat buckets is to create positive associations with people and to reward desirable behavior from outside the kennel. The goal of treat buckets for shy dogs is to teach fearful/shy dogs to enjoy this interaction with people.

Note that if the first time you give a dog a treat, the dog is at the front of the kennel, wagging its tail, looking at you, and interested in interacting with you, you are 'already' at step 4, and you may record this as such.

INSTRUCTIONS (SETTING UP THE BUCKETS):

1. Buy small buckets that are disinfectable, and you can hang outside the dog's kennel.
2. Hang the buckets outside each dog's kennel.
3. Create a sign to introduce the treat buckets to visitors. ([View example of sign](#))
4. Place a reward in the buckets that the dogs enjoy eating, but is not perishable and doesn't upset their stomachs; their dry kibble works, for many dogs. Most shy dogs won't eat kibble; place special treats in their buckets.
5. Staff or volunteers must check the buckets on a regular basis, and refill them with treats when necessary.
6. Staff or volunteers must disinfect the buckets on a regular basis, a minimum of once weekly.

INSTRUCTIONS (USING THE BUCKETS): Once you identify a shy/fearful dog, use the following steps. Progress to the next step once the dog is quickly and regularly eating the treat after it is tossed. Note that we prefer TOSSING the treat (vs. handing it to the dog) because less direct contact with the dog potentially results in less spread of disease. Use the log (fear of people assessment) to record behavioral observations.

1. Toss the treat and then move away. Do not stop and look at or talk to the dog.
2. Briefly stop at the dog's kennel, but do not look at the dog. Toss a treat, and then move away.
3. Stop at the dog's kennel, and quietly say 'hi' while looking at the dog. Toss the treat, and then move away.
4. Stop at the dog's kennel, say 'hi' in a normal voice while looking at the dog. Toss the treat, and stay in the same place. You should be able to give the dog multiple treats at this step, because the dog now enjoys interacting with people.
5. Success!