

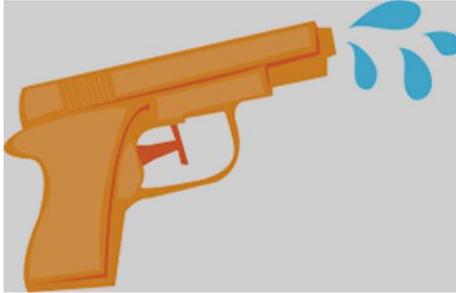
Transforming a Trigger Into an Invitation



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Is your learner reactive or responsive?



trigger



cue

Trigger \approx US



- Unconditioned stimulus
- A stimulus that elicits a reflex
 - respondent behavior elicited by antecedents
 - independent of consequences
- Mediated by the autonomic nervous system

Cue \approx S^D

- Discriminative stimulus
- A stimulus that signals the availability of reinforcement contingent on a specific appropriate behavior.
- Mediated by somatic nervous system



Why transfer a functional cue?

- To switch cue modality
- To make the cue more clever
- To add additional “green lights” to a useful behavior
- To create a reinforcement opportunity in an upsetting situation (= DRI)



Dorothy Carlton Turley is with Chuck Turley.



Yesterday at 6:41 PM · 🌐

“Shoes? You are putting on shoes?” Eevee caught on to this quickly. Shoes on humans means cookies for pups who are laying down. Shoe cookie time is pretty popular.



How to transfer a functional cue

- 1) Make sure your current cue works!
- 2) Give new cue, give old cue, reinforce correct behavior.
- 3) Repeat pairing many times.
- 4) Do a probe trial:
present new cue, pause, reinforce any correct behavior.
- 5) Randomly alternate pairings (2) & probes (4), gradually increasing proportion of probes.
- 6) Mix the new cue in among other familiar cues.

Tips for success

- Dense reinforcement for the incompatible behavior
- Attenuated “triggers” = wading pool
 - Farther away
 - Different orientation
 - Familiar vs. novel person or dog
 - Changed context
 - Masking sound
 - One stimulus dimension only
- Careful sequencing; learner must notice trigger

Case 1: Kathy & Smudge



- We walk ~35 miles/week in an urban setting.
- When I adopted Smudge, he lunged & barked as soon as he noticed any dog while on leash.
- My experience training marine mammals biases me to use targeting & stationing as incompatible behaviors.
- I reinforced “nose-to-knuckles” often & generously.

No sit.



- Reduces option to move or flee
- Can be uncomfortable or painful
- Might have an association with previous coercion







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OR PROBLEM
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CROSSING 085269P

Case 2: Laura Monaco Torelli, Vito & Topolina

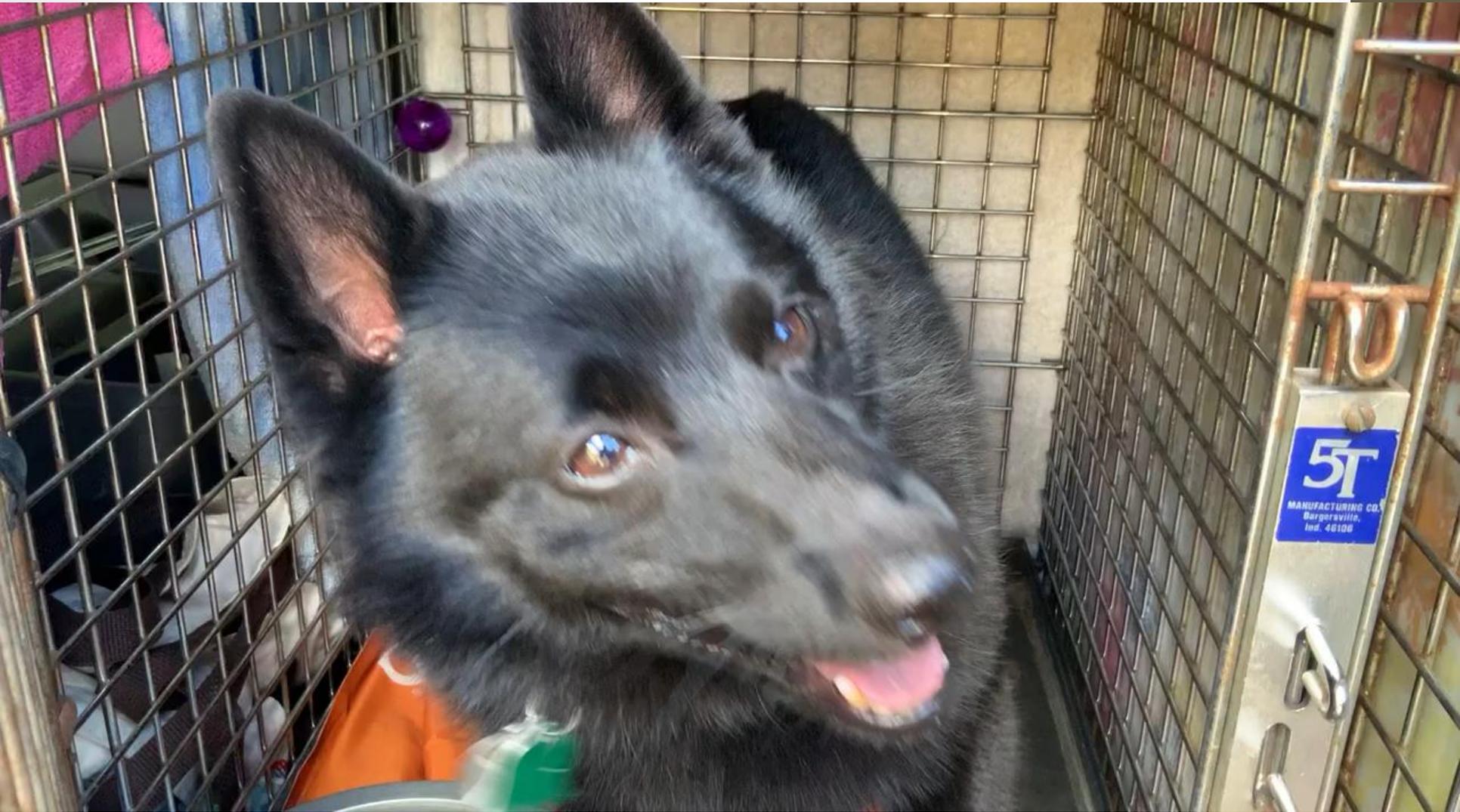
www.lauramonacotorelli.com





Case 3: Esther Zimmerman & Friday







Case 4: Molly Timko & Tripp <https://timkopettraining.com>









Case 5: Karen Crawford & Pepper



Thank you!



