YES, YOU **CAN** TRAIN CATS!

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If this cat can be trained...

...so can yours!
WHY IS TRAINING CATS IMPORTANT?

- Mental stimulation
- Strengthen human-animal bond
- Decrease unwanted behaviors
- Physical stimulation
- Develop confidence
- Make handling easier
- Fun!

CLICKER TRAINING

- Marker training, R+
- Marine mammals, zoo, fish, people
- The click
  - Event marker
  - Bridge
  - Secondary (conditioned) reinforcer
  - Precise
  - Distinct

Caution: scary?

CLICKER SKILLS

- Observation
- Timing
- 1 click = (at least) 1 reinforcer
- Separate the click from the reward
- Motivators
Practice!

GETTING BEHAVIORS

- Luring/prompting
- Shaping
- Capturing
**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

- Loading the clicker
- Target
  - Why?
- When do you add the verbal cue?
  - Behavior performed reliably 8/10 times
  - Predict moment behavior is about to be performed

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**Practice!**

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Practice Video!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
USEFUL BEHAVIORS

• Go into carrier
• Come when called
• Go to mat (station)

DESENSITIZATION & COUNTERCONDITIONING

Used to change underlying emotions

Desensitization
• Presenting a negative (scary) stimulus at a low enough intensity that it doesn’t elicit a negative (fearful, aggressive) response, and gradually increasing intensity, still avoiding a negative response.

*If it’s boring, you’re probably doing it right!*

Counterconditioning
• Providing something pleasant in the presence of something negative (scary)
• And/or teaching an incompatible behavior in the presence of something negative

*Most effective when used together!*
COOPERATIVE CARE

• Stationing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6P1zv8Bx3o

Courtesy of Ayoe Hill

POSITIVE HANDLING EXAMPLES

• Distraction vs. training
THE ENDS

Shy Karen's Continued Transformation

She's now at https://www.nervouslook.com/what-kdr5k32342