



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Pezzing and Luring

“Pezzing” (nonstop reward delivery)

“Pezzing” is a form of luring. (The term was coined by a CFR who likens feeding multiple pieces of kibble from one hand to a Pezz dispenser!) Pezzing has many uses when first introducing luring a behavior to a puppy and keeps the pup more motivated than single-kibble luring.

Raisers should practice pezzing without the puppy, until it can be done smoothly. For practice, one kibble at a time may be fed into a cup held in the left hand.

- Handlers should hold five to eight pieces of food cupped in the right hand (only as many as is comfortable). A piece of kibble is slid toward the fingertips with the thumb and held between fingertips and thumb. This is the piece that will be fed into the puppy’s mouth. Then another piece is slid forward etc. Raisers should try to increase the speed of delivery while staying in control of the kibble.
- The raiser’s hand should stay in contact with the puppy’s muzzle to keep the puppy focused on the food. If the hand is drawn away, the puppy may lose interest. Handlers should keep the puppy fully occupied with the food, literally touching the front of the muzzle like a magnet. If the hand is moved too quickly, or is too far away from the puppy’s muzzle, the pup will not follow it. The luring hand must be held on the end of the puppy’s nose constantly while pezzing.
- For pups that are unsure about following the pezzing/luring hand, the handler should encourage the pup with kissing sounds.
- When pezzing/luring a puppy into a position, the handler should be feeding pieces of kibble to the puppy as it maneuvers into position. For example, when luring into a sit, initially the puppy may be fed four pieces of kibble before its bottom touches the ground!



- Once the puppy is in the desired position, it should be continuously pezzed to keep it still during initial sessions. The rate of pezzing can be gradually decreased as the puppy becomes accustomed to holding the position.

- If the puppy paws at the pezzing hand, the hand should be pulled up quickly and returned once the pup's feet are on the ground.
- As the puppy gets the idea of staying in position, the pezzing hand, with food in it, can be quickly pulled out away from the puppy then returned to reward the pup for staying. This is the very beginning of teaching the pup to stay still in a position. If the hand is pulled away too slowly, the pup will follow the hand and move out of position.



- Once the puppy is eagerly following the moving hand into the desired position with no hesitation, pezzing may be dispensed with and single-kibble luring utilized.

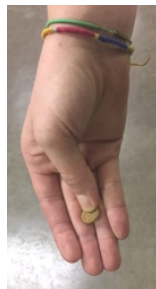
Puppies Taking Food Roughly

Some puppies may become so excited by the hand-held food that they may grab or gnaw at the handler's hand in an attempt to get the food. The handler should stop working on positions and work on polite taking of food for a while, before continuing luring. The handler should not delay rewarding the puppy while pezzing/ luring however. Delaying giving the food will confuse and frustrate the puppy and may result in it not following the lure at all. Work on polite taking of food separately.

Luring

Like pezzing, single-kibble luring is a skill that will improve with handler practice.

- A single piece of kibble should be placed in the handler's right hand under the thumb, held across the palm.



- The hand should be kept on, or very close to, the puppy's nose at first, as when pezzing.
- The hand should be moved slowly to coax the pup to follow the food into the desired position. If the hand is moved too quickly or is too far from the end of the pup's nose it may not follow it.

- If the puppy paws at the luring hand, the hand should be pulled up quickly and returned once the pup's feet are on the ground.
- As soon as the puppy attains the desired position the food is released to the pup's mouth.
- If the puppy doesn't follow the lure it may be allowed to smell the kibble in the hand before trying again. Moving the hand too quickly or too far away from the puppy will confuse it – the hand may need to be in physical contact with the pup's muzzle.
- Within a few successful repetitions, the lure/signal can be held a little further away from the puppy and/or moved a little more quickly like an actual signal.



Luring is a skill that takes practice. If the raiser is not having success luring their puppy, the leader should be consulted.