


Thresholds

Under threshold – dog is “operant”. He can think, offer behaviors, respond to cues, and the trigger (whatever the trigger is) elicits NO response. Not a little, not manageable, but *none*.

Over threshold – dog is reacting to triggers and his ability to listen to, respond to, or learn from you is severely limited.

 **Ideal working threshold** - a zone below dog’s reactivity point, characterized by his ability to notice the trigger without an inappropriate, undesirable, or dangerous response.

Intensity

- **How INTENSE is the trigger for the dog?**
- Consider details from a sensory perspective: movement, loudness, weird looking, weird sounding.
- Is the trigger unpredictable from dog’s perspective?

Distance

- **How FAR AWAY is the trigger?**
- Ideal: dog can split his attention between trigger and you – “Think & Learn” zone.
- Where we usually make mistakes.
- Add 25% to what you think is the appropriate distance.

Duration

- **For HOW LONG will the dog be asked to deal with the trigger?**
- Ideal: depends on intensity and distance.
- When in doubt, keep it brief.
- Watch/listen to what your dog is “saying”

Trigger **TOO INTENSE** = increase distance + shorten duration.

Trigger is **TOO CLOSE** = decrease intensity (or increase distance) + shorten duration

Dealing for **TOO LONG** = increase distance + decrease intensity