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## Stages of Learning

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### Acquisition

*Your dog is learning a new behavior. When teaching a new behavior use continuous reinforcement with few distractions. Practice, practice, practice. Reward, reward, reward.*

### Fluency

*Your dog is able to perform the new behavior with some accuracy and reliability. They may be slow to perform the behavior in a distracting environment. Continue to practice and reward the target behavior.*

### Generalization

*Your dog can perform the behavior with accuracy and reliability. They are learning to apply the behavior to new circumstances and settings with more distractions. Use high value rewards to reinforce the behavior in new situations.*

### Maintenance

*Your dog consistently demonstrates this behavior in a variety of settings. You still want to reward the behavior using intermittent reinforcement. Remember the behaviors that stay the strongest are rewarded on occasion.*

