



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Emergency Lure Technique

The Emergency Lure and Modified Emergency Lure are R+ management techniques that prevent a puppy from practicing distracted behavior in public by luring them past tempting distractions.

Utilizing the Emergency Lure allows a puppy to be moved through a difficult situation focusing on its handler and food, rather than either engaging in the distraction, or being physically manhandled through the situation. Most raisers should be able to avoid having to use the Emergency Lure more than a few times a week, and only occasionally as the puppy matures. For some raisers (those taking the puppy to school or work) opportunities to use the Emergency Lure may crop up a couple of times per day when the puppy is young and naïve. Overuse of the Emergency Lure won't do any harm, provided the puppy has many other opportunities to make choices and learn around distractions in appropriate situations (utilizing clean handling and marking and rewarding for desired behavior).

It is still advisable for raisers to avoid situations the puppy isn't prepared for. This may mean carefully considering routes and socialization opportunities, giving distractions a very wide berth, or even turning around and going back, to keep the puppy under threshold and successful. But no matter how careful puppy raisers are, they will sometimes find themselves in situations the puppy is not prepared for, and this is when the Emergency Lure is a good choice. Should the technique need to be used regularly, then the level of exposure for that puppy is probably too much and the leader/CFR should be consulted.

The Emergency Lure is useful:

- Anytime a distraction cannot be avoided, and the puppy is not ready to work through the distraction. It may be that one or more elements of the "3Ds" make it just too challenging for the puppy in that moment:
 - the distraction is too close
 - the distraction is too difficult
 - the puppy has been asked to work for longer than it is ready for (duration)

Some examples of situations where a raiser may find this technique helpful include vet waiting rooms, crowded locations, dogs in close proximity (loose dogs, dogs on flexi leads, etc.), a member of the public persistent in trying to greet, or any other unavoidable distraction the puppy is not ready to tackle.

Using the Emergency Lure (Video: [Emergency Lure Technique](#))

- The handler should pre-load multiple kibbles in the right hand while keeping a short leash to control the puppy's head with the left hand. Holding the leash close to the clip works best. The leash should not be tight and restrictive but short enough to prevent lunging at the distraction
- The right hand should be held right on the puppy's nose and the puppy pezzed as the raiser moves quickly away from the distraction
- The puppy is not marked but verbal praise and encouragement will help keep the puppy engaged with the handler
- Dropped food should be ignored
- If the distraction is a person, the handler should pleasantly explain that the puppy is in training and can't visit right now as the pup is pezzed out of the situation
- Once the pup has been moved to an appropriate distance from the distraction, a return to clean handling techniques may resume

Modified Emergency Lure – ‘Rapid Fire’ Reinforcement

Video: [Modified Emergency Lure/Rapid Fire Reinforcement](#)

Another type of Emergency Lure involves a high rate of reinforcement from a pre-loaded hand that is not constantly held at the puppy’s nose. It is a useful transitional step between a regular Emergency Lure and a return to clean handling with mark and reward. It can be used in similar situations to those mentioned above but is for more mature puppies/those further along in their preparation for distractions.

This technique should already be familiar to raisers from Paw Pad work and is also used as a type of jackpot. (See video [Food Reward Basics Part 2 - Multiples: Jackpot 1, 2, 3, 4, 5](#))

- The right hand is pre-loaded with multiple kibbles while the left hand holds the leash. The leash should be short enough to prevent any lunging but should not be restrictive
- The right hand is brought over to deliver a kibble directly to the puppy’s muzzle then quickly returned to the right side or even behind the back
- Care must be taken that the right hand is not visible to the puppy between deliveries as this could cause the pup to wrap to look at the hand
- The puppy is not marked but verbal praise and encouragement will help keep the puppy engaged with the handler
- The handler should try to keep moving out of the situation but a pause as food is delivered is acceptable
- Once the pup has been moved to an appropriate distance from the distraction, a return to clean handling techniques may resume

Occasionally utilizing this technique while stationary is acceptable, as when a puppy needs a very high rate of reinforcement but might lose interest in the food, and engage in the distraction, if the handler takes too long to get the food to the puppy. It should not be used generally as a training technique but can be useful if the raiser is caught off-guard by the level of the puppy’s distraction.

It is essential that raisers remember that the Emergency Lure is more a management tool than a training technique. It is helpful in very distracting situations where it is more important to prevent the puppy from practicing distracted behavior (staring, pulling, lunging) than to focus on clean handling. But the goal is to return to clean handling techniques - teaching the puppy impulse control and how to make appropriate choices as soon as possible.