

Chicken Clickin' Camp

Practicing your clicker training skills with chickens is a fantastic way to sharpen your overall animal training skills. Over the course of three days, students will get insight on chicken behavior, improve mechanical, observation and timing skills, deepen an understanding of the power of high rate of reinforcement, and how to analyze data to monitor training progress through lecture, observation and hands-on chicken training.

Over the course of three days students will apply newly strengthened skills by training a chicken, or two, a variety of behaviors. Observation skills will be strengthened through direct observation of chickens in their natural environment and lecture on chicken behavior. Learning theory, classical conditioning and operant behavior will be directly applied to capture and shape behaviors using the clicker and positive reinforcement. If time warrants, your new found skills may be used on a variety of animal species living at the farm – sheep, horses, cats, and rabbits to name a few.

Sharon Wirant is one of 60 professionals to hold the unique certification as an Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (ACAAB) with the Animal Behavior Society. She is a graduate of Bob Bailey's Chicken Camps levels 1, 2 and 3. She is also a Certified Professional Dog Trainer – Knowledge Assessed (CPDT-KA), a graduate of the Karen Pryor Academy for Animal Training and Behavior as a Certified Training Partner (KPA-CTP). She currently holds the position of Director of Business Operations for the Monadnock Humane Society where she oversees Business Operations, including Boarding & Daycare, the Training Center and Retail.

For over 20 years Sharon has been involved with training dogs through dog agility, obedience, flyball, rally obedience, herding and behavior modification. Sharon's experiences training dogs and horses led her to become interested in the details of how the brain works with behavior and learning in all species. This curiosity led Sharon to earn a Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience and Biological Sciences. She continued her education by earning a graduate degree in Biological Sciences specializing in Animal Behavior. Sharon and her husband share their lives with 6 dogs and 16 sheep.