

Food retrieval key concepts

In and of itself, food retrieval is a skill with limited value. Then why teach it?

On the surface the answer is simple. It's about having a trusting relationship with your dog. Are **you** trustworthy enough that your dog will forego immediate gratification because she can **rely** on you to provide an even greater form of gratification?

You owe it to yourself to answer honestly, because if the answer is "No" or "I'm not sure" you have plenty of work to do.

Will your dog successfully retrieve food today in this learning lab? The answer depends on how **fluently** your dog performs the individual component behaviors for this task.

They are:

- 1) Deliver **any** object to hand
- 2) Recall or return to front or side from the Go Out
- 3) Carry **any** object **without mouthing** or swallowing
- 4) Pick up **any** indicated object
- 5) Go out to **any** indicated object
- 6) Refuse **any** offered food until released to collect a **different R+**
- 7) Does **all six** above behaviors in **any** environment

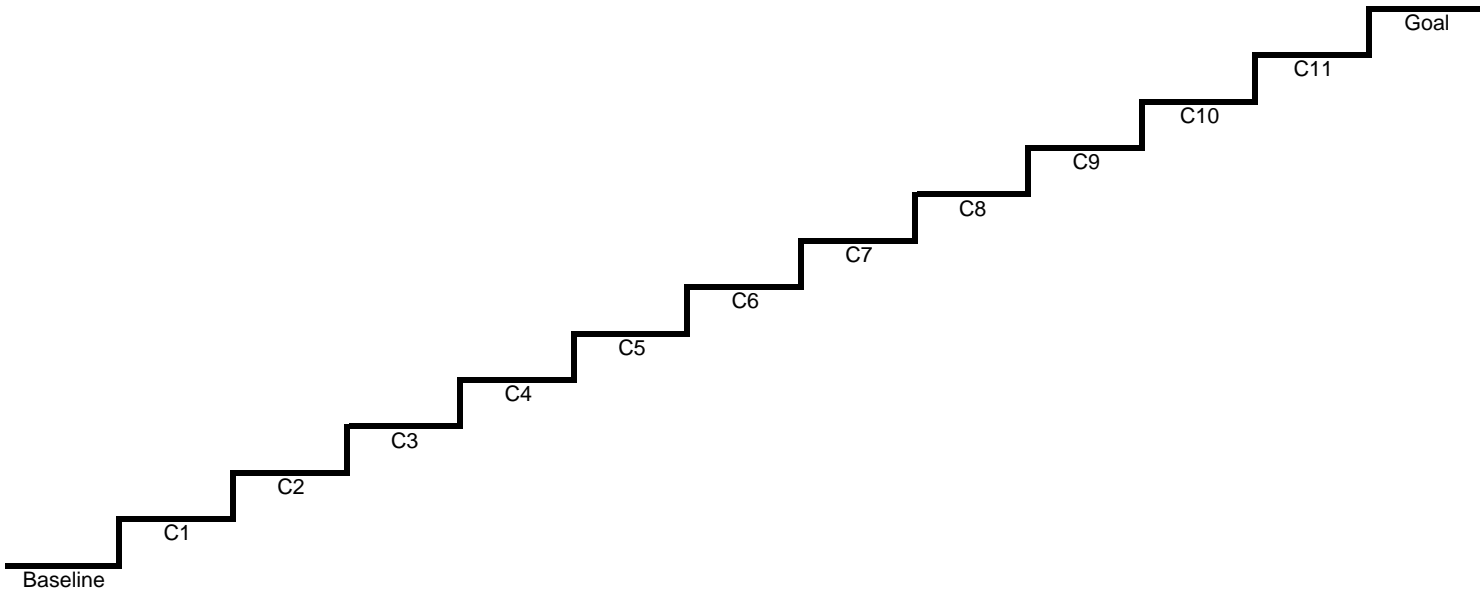
Not sure? Well, there's a way to find out. We can use the matrix on the next page to assess whether or not our dogs are ready for the whole task or any individual component. We can also use it to as a rough guide before fine-tuning detailed shaping plans.

**In the end, this is about building a relationship with our dogs
which instills the critical life skill of IMPULSE CONTROL.**

Food Retrieval Readiness Assessment Matrix

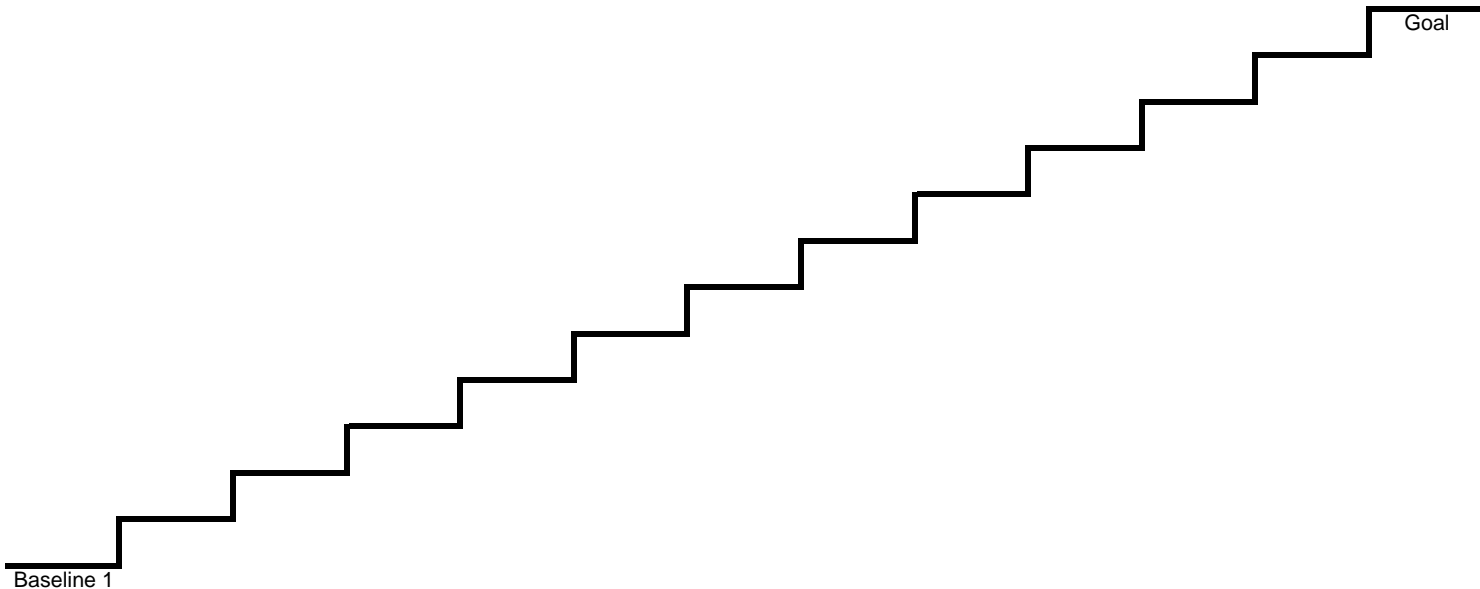
	<i>Deliver object</i>	<i>Recall</i>	<i>Carry object</i>	<i>Pick up object</i>	<i>Go out</i>	<i>Food refusal</i>	<i>Environment</i>
Most fluent ↑	To hand w/o mouthing	Directly to front or side	Carries calmly and firmly	Picks up & holds with molars	Goes directly to target object	Refuses unwrapped delectable food on floor	Any place Any time Distractions
	To hand with mouthing	Directly to vicinity	Carries overly firm	Picks up & holds behind canines	Goes to vicinity of target object	Refuses wrapped delectable food on floor	Any place Any time No distraction
	To feet w/o mouthing	Indirectly to front or side	Carries loosely	Multiple attempts to pick up	Over-runs target object	Refuses unwrapped delectable food in hand	In known locations with distraction
	To feet with mouthing	Indirectly to vicinity	Drops object	Fails in effort pick up	Short of target object	Refuses wrapped delectable food in hand	In known locations with no distraction
Least fluent ↓	Slow to release	Investigates environment enroute	Mouths object	Investigates but no pick up	Ranges wide	Refuses uncovered dry food on floor	In training environment w/ distraction
	Will not release	Investigates people enroute	Tosses object	Does not investigate	Wanders away	Refuses covered dry food on floor	In training environment no distraction
	Runs off with object	Investigates animals enroute	Plays with object	Avoidance	Will not go out	Refuses dry food in hand	In the dog's home environment
		Investigates retrieved object enroute	Stops and chews object				All other skills must be solid in any environment

Behavior Shaping Plan — Main	
Date:	
Handler:	
Dog:	
Behavior goal:	
Baseline behavior:	



Notes:

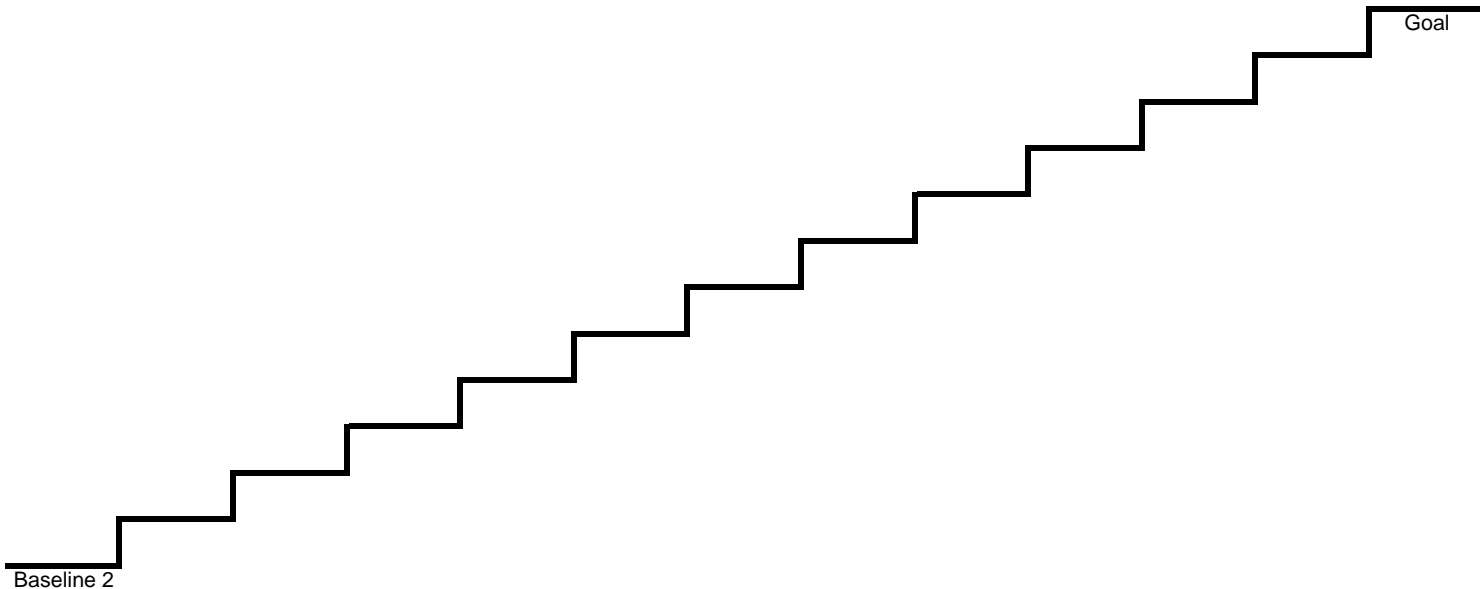
Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 1
Date:
Handler:
Dog:
Behavior goal:
Baseline behavior:



The graph is a step function plotted on a coordinate system. It starts at a low level labeled 'Baseline 1' on the left. The line then moves up in a series of ten steps, each consisting of a horizontal segment followed by a vertical step up. The final horizontal segment is labeled 'Goal' on the right, indicating the target level of the behavior.

Notes:

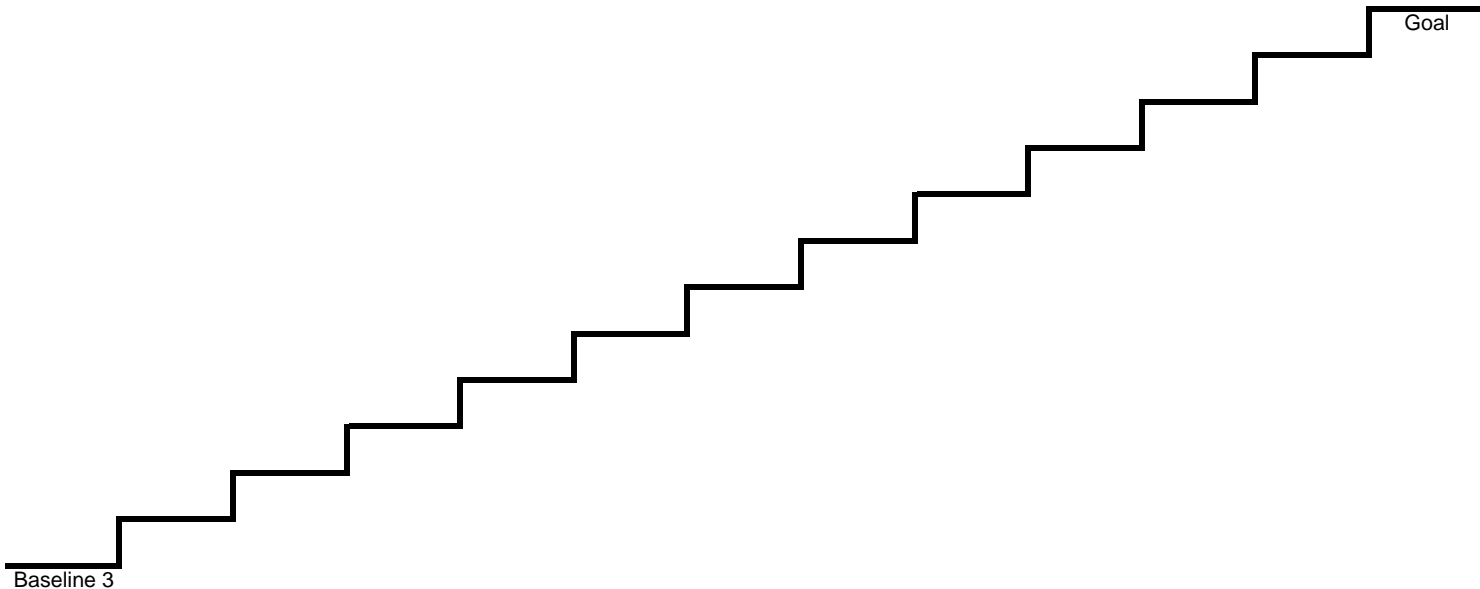
Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 2
Date:
Handler:
Dog:
Behavior goal:
Baseline behavior:



The graph is a step function plotted on a coordinate system. The horizontal axis represents time or trials, and the vertical axis represents the level of behavior. The line starts at a low point labeled 'Baseline 2'. It then moves up in a series of steps, with each step representing a small improvement in behavior. The final step reaches a higher level labeled 'Goal'.

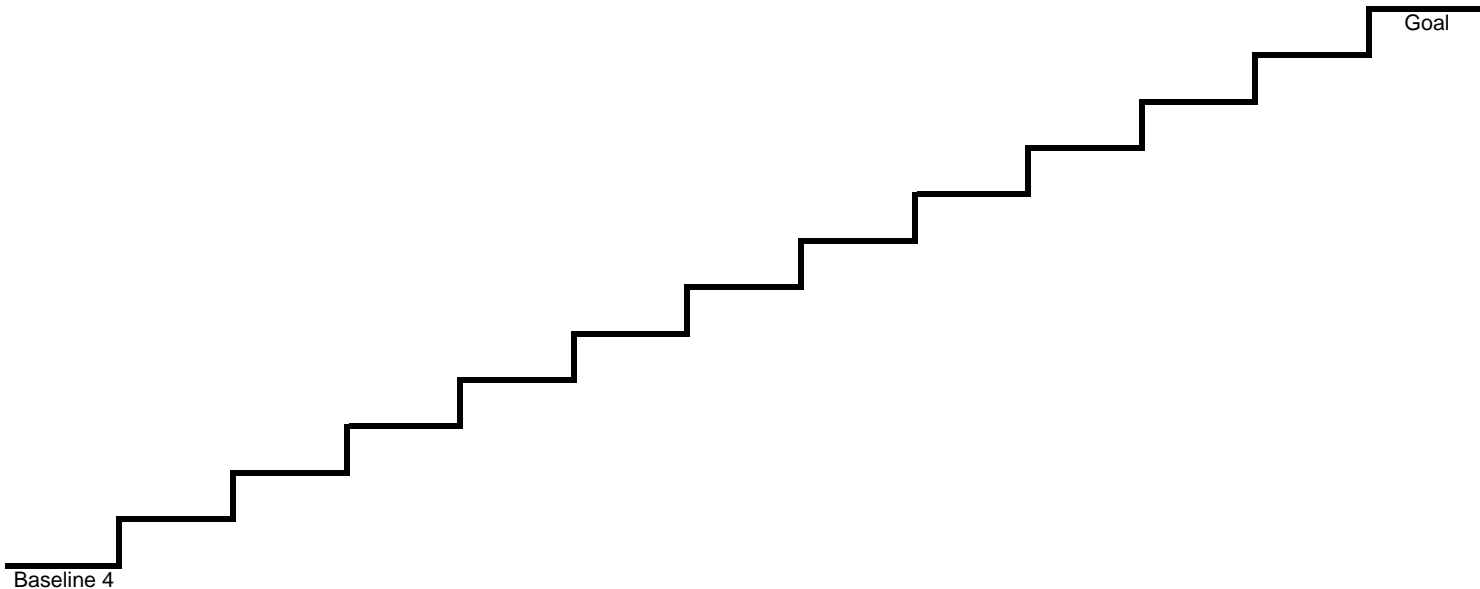
Notes:

Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 3	
Date:	
Handler:	
Dog:	
Behavior goal:	
Baseline behavior:	



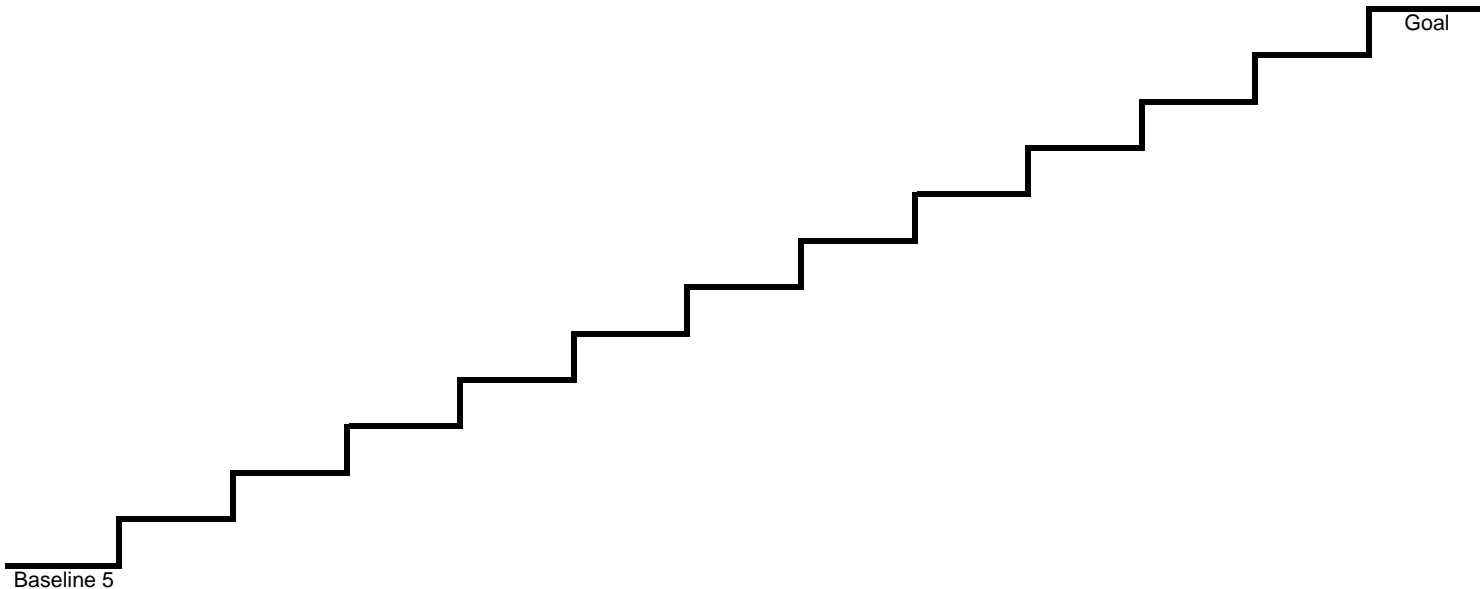
Notes:

Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 4	
Date:	
Handler:	
Dog:	
Behavior goal:	
Baseline behavior:	



Notes:

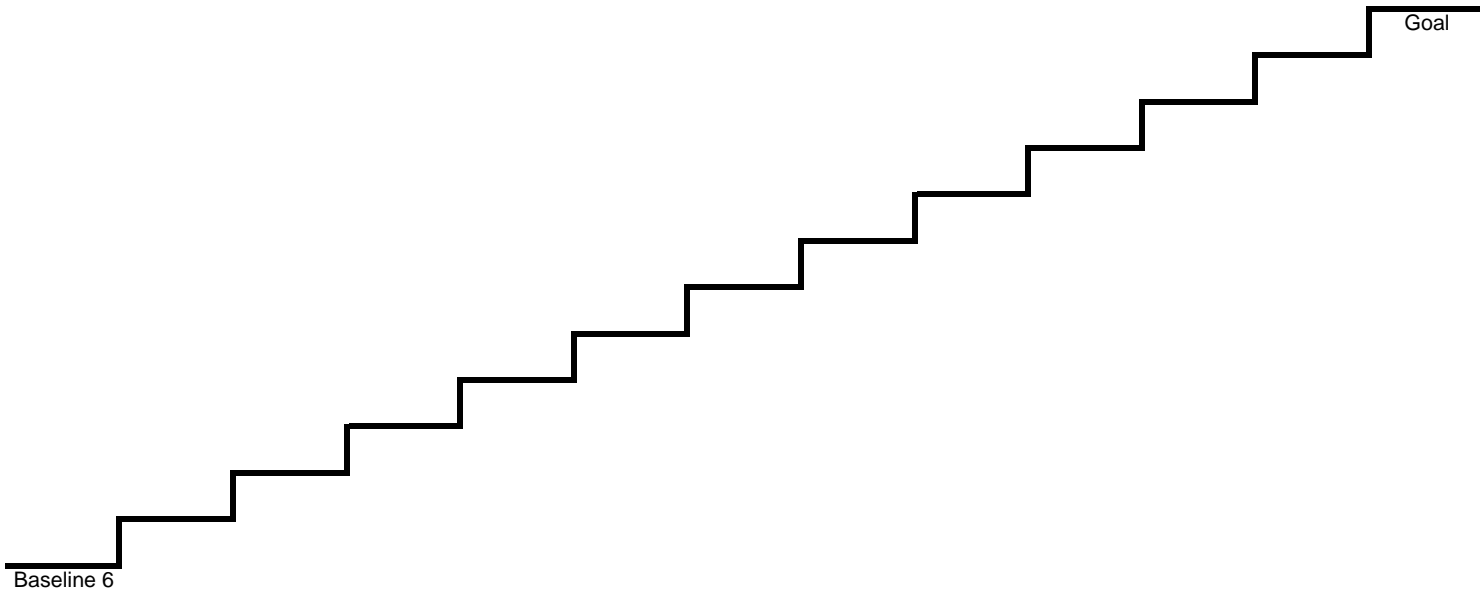
Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 5
Date:
Handler:
Dog:
Behavior goal:
Baseline behavior:



The graph illustrates a behavior shaping plan. It features a staircase-like line that starts at a point labeled "Baseline 5" on the left and moves upwards in a series of steps. Each step represents a small, incremental improvement in behavior. The final, highest step is labeled "Goal".

Notes:

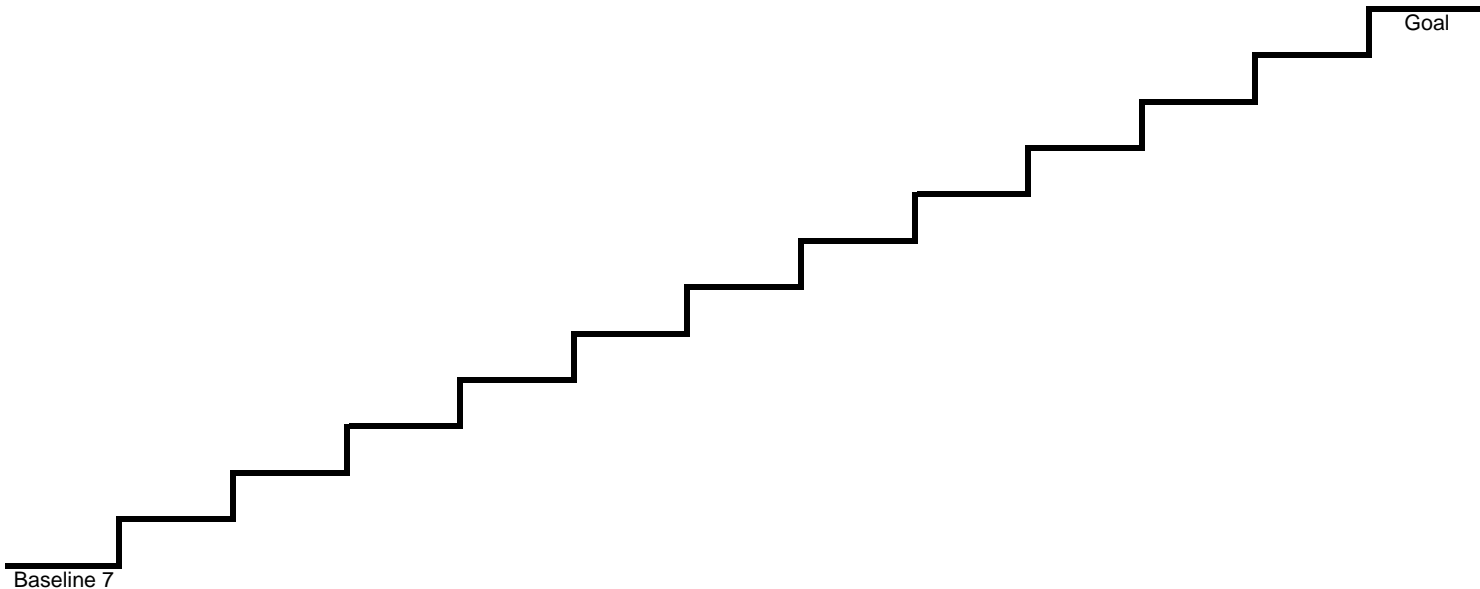
Behavior Shaping Plan — Critertion 6
Date:
Handler:
Dog:
Behavior goal:
Baseline behavior:



The graph illustrates a staircase pattern representing behavior levels. The x-axis represents time or trials, and the y-axis represents the level of behavior. The graph starts at a point labeled "Baseline 6" and proceeds in a series of steps, each higher than the last, ending at a point labeled "Goal".

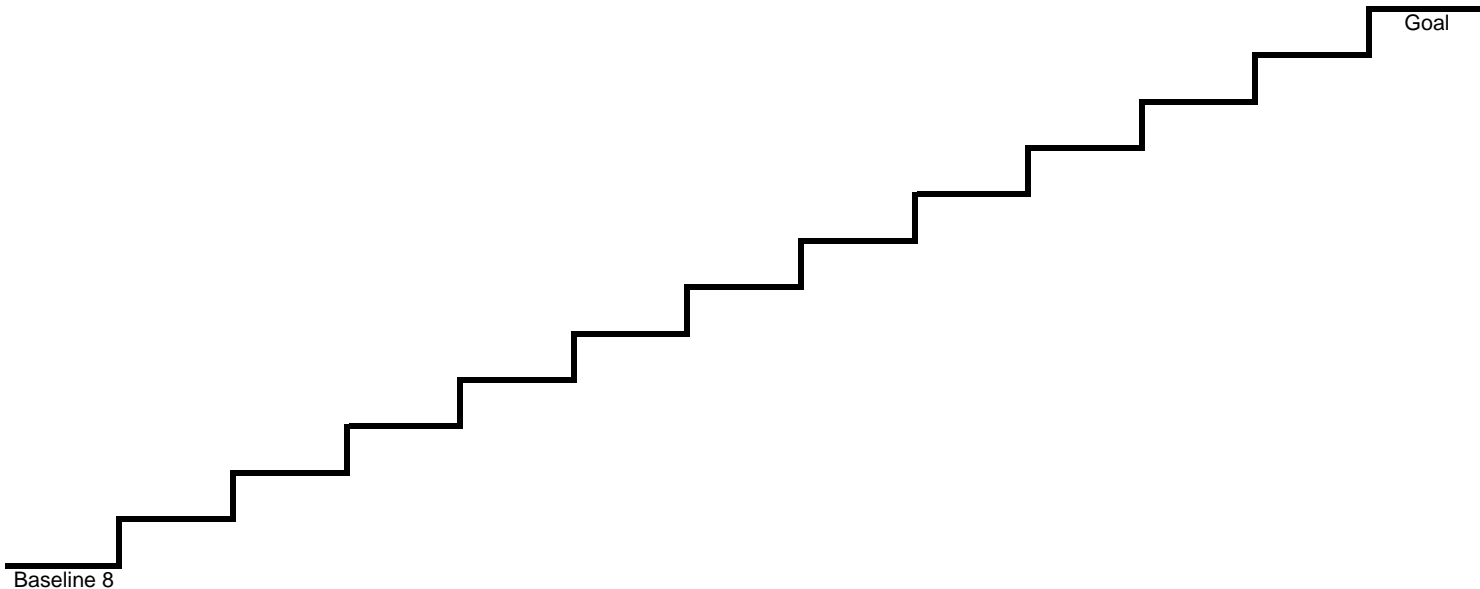
Notes:

Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 7	
Date:	
Handler:	
Dog:	
Behavior goal:	
Baseline behavior:	



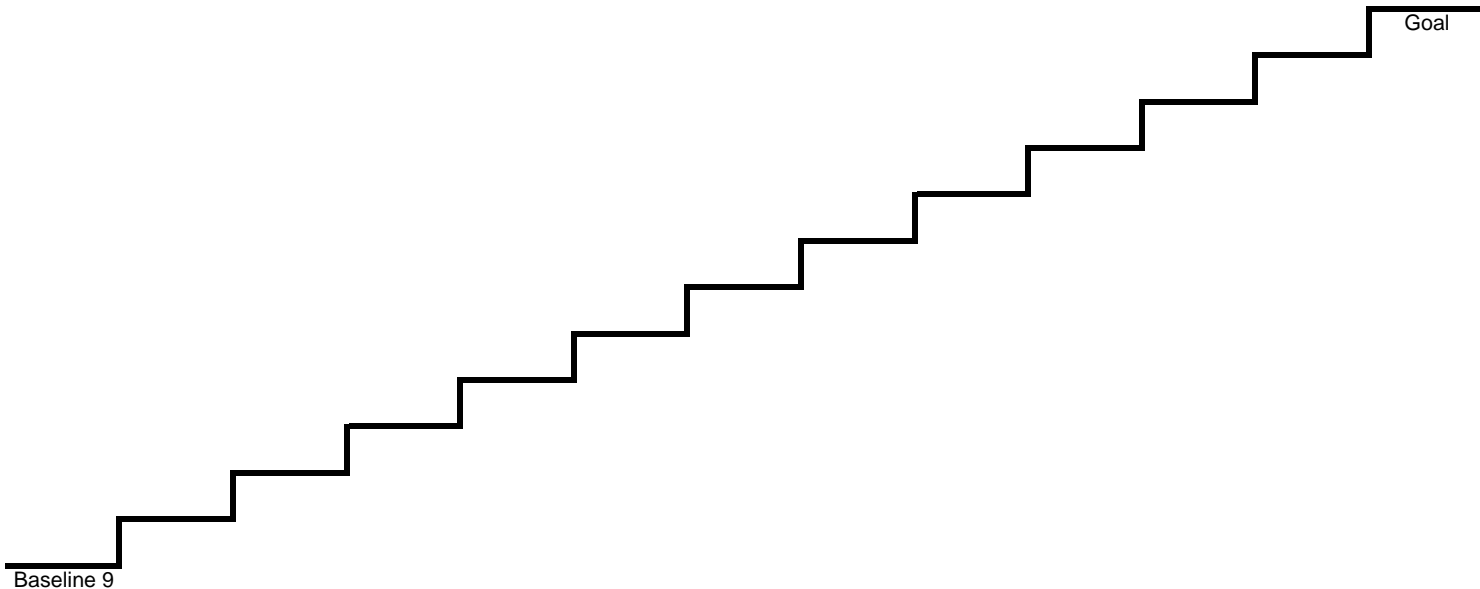
Notes:

Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 8	
Date:	
Handler:	
Dog:	
Behavior goal:	
Baseline behavior:	



Notes:

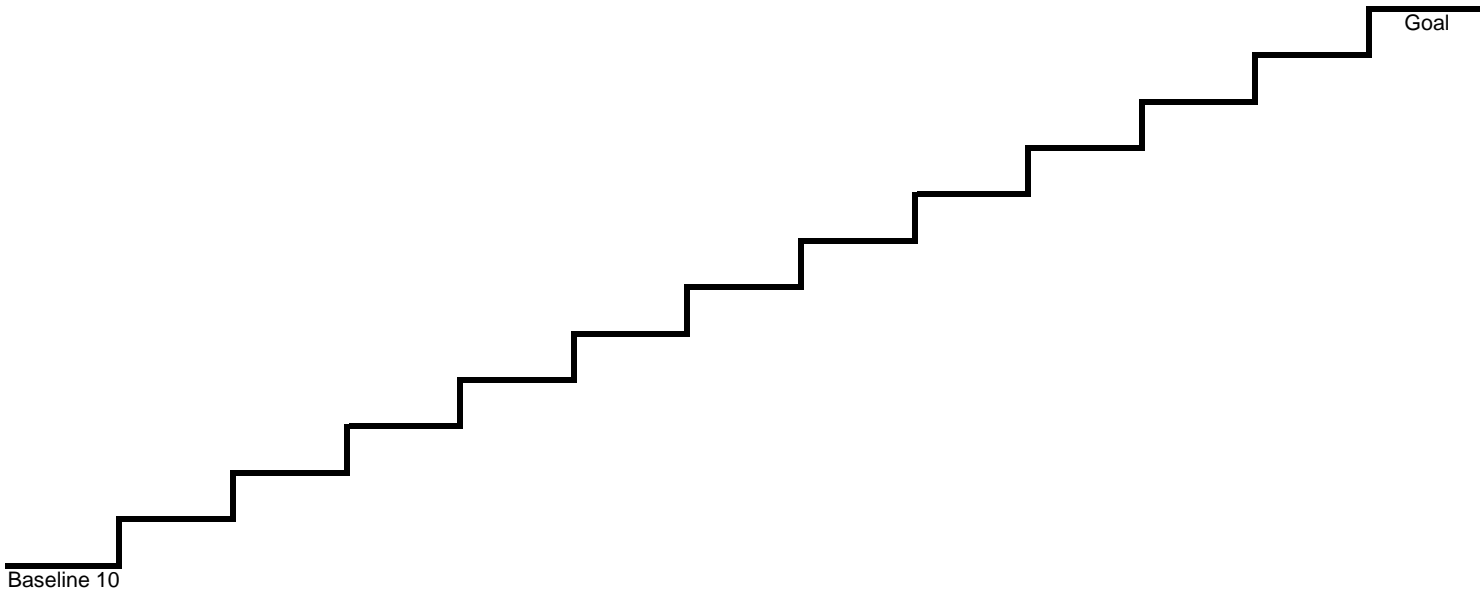
Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 9
Date:
Handler:
Dog:
Behavior goal:
Baseline behavior:



The graph is a step function plotted on a coordinate system. The x-axis represents time or trials, and the y-axis represents the level of behavior. The function starts at a low level labeled 'Baseline 9' and proceeds in a series of 10 steps, each higher than the previous one, ending at a level labeled 'Goal'.

Notes:

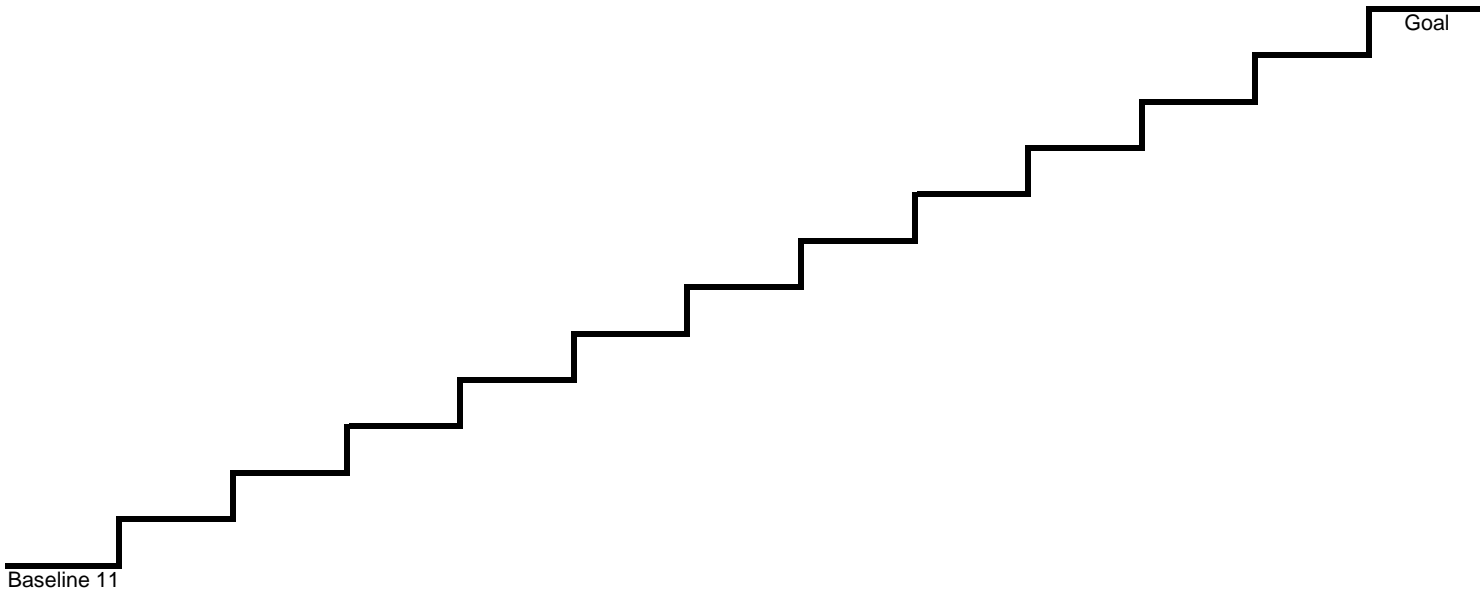
Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 10
Date:
Handler:
Dog:
Behavior goal:
Baseline behavior:



The graph illustrates a staircase pattern representing behavior levels over time. The x-axis represents time or trials, and the y-axis represents the level of behavior. The graph starts at a low level labeled "Baseline 10" and proceeds in a series of steps, each higher than the last, until it reaches a final level labeled "Goal".

Notes:

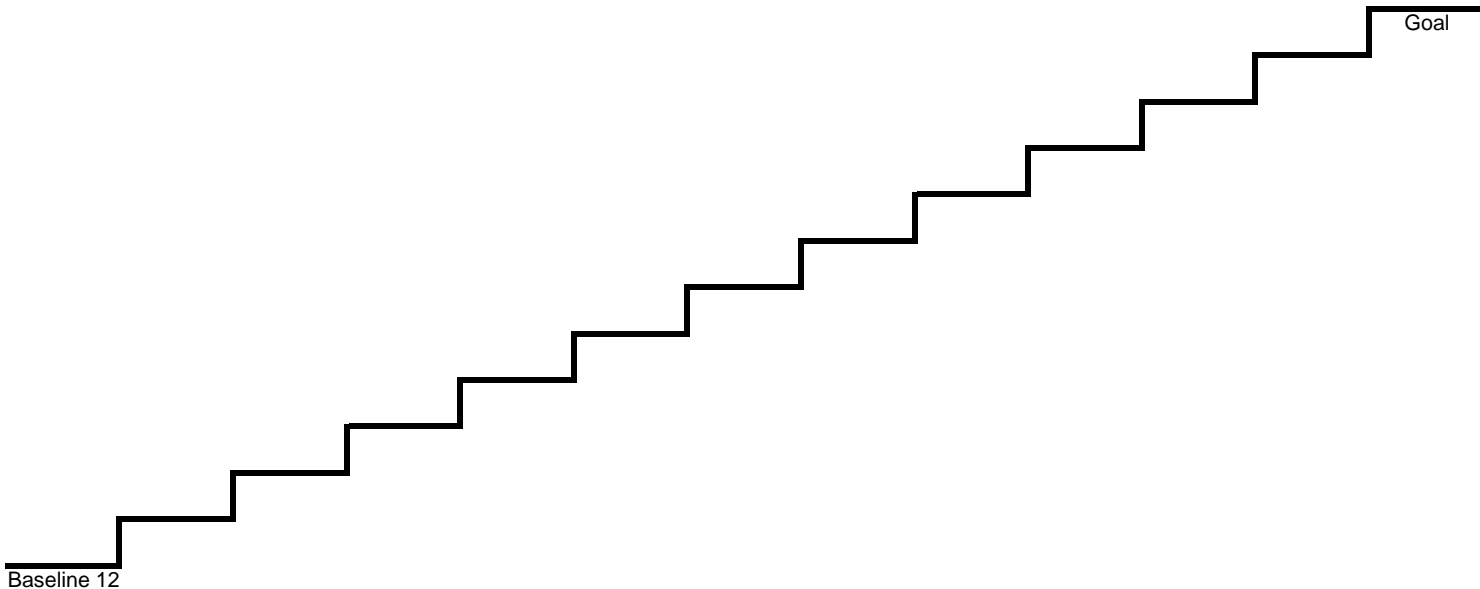
Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 11
Date:
Handler:
Dog:
Behavior goal:
Baseline behavior:



The graph illustrates a step function representing behavior levels over time. It begins at a baseline labeled "Baseline 11" and shows ten distinct steps, each representing a small improvement in behavior. The final step is labeled "Goal".

Notes:

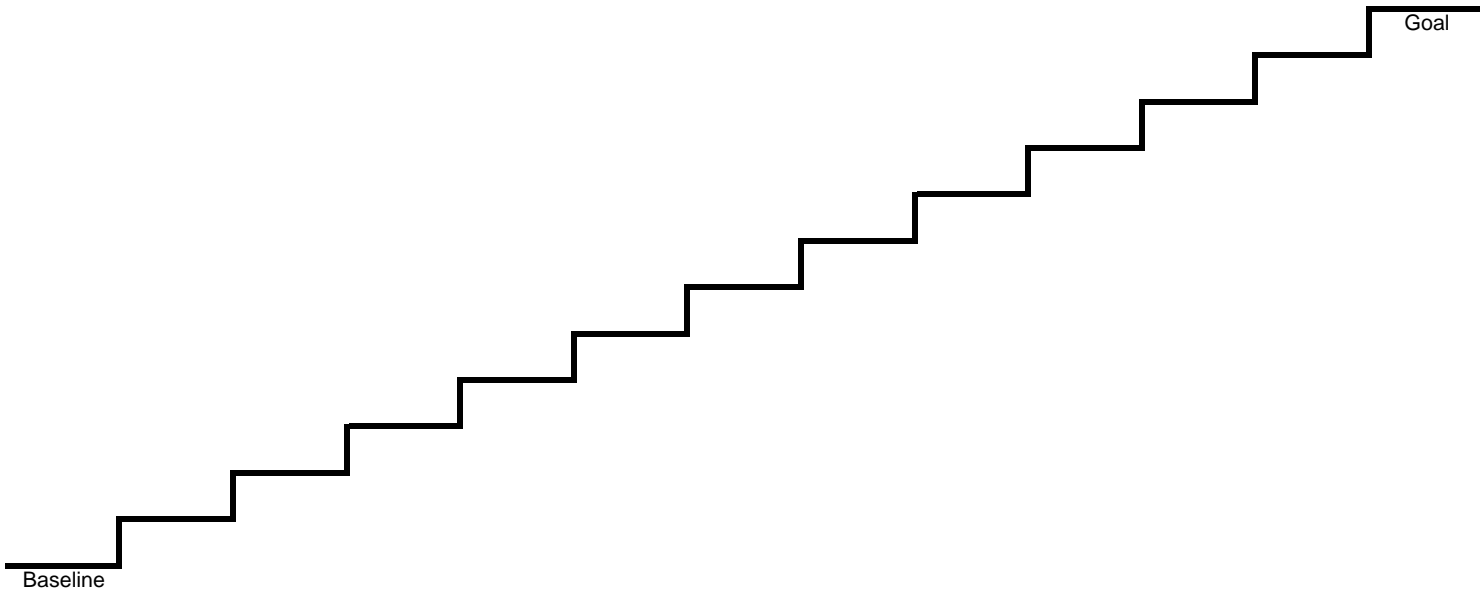
Behavior Shaping Plan — Criterion 12
Date:
Handler:
Dog:
Behavior goal:
Baseline behavior:



The graph is a step function plotted on a coordinate system. The x-axis represents time or trials, and the y-axis represents the level of behavior. The function starts at a low level labeled 'Baseline 12'. It then proceeds in a series of 10 steps, each step representing a small improvement in behavior. The final step reaches a higher level labeled 'Goal'.

Notes:

Behavior Shaping Plan — Final	
Date:	
Handler:	
Dog:	
Behavior goal:	
Baseline behavior:	



The graph is a step function plotted on a coordinate system. The horizontal axis represents the progression of training steps, and the vertical axis represents the level of behavior. The line starts at a low point on the left labeled 'Baseline'. It then moves horizontally to the right, then vertically up, then horizontally to the right, then vertically up, and so on, creating a staircase pattern. The final horizontal segment on the right is labeled 'Goal'.

Notes: