HIGH VALUE FOOD REWARDS

This is to introduce some ideas around what sorts of food treats make good rewards in our highly stimulating class environment.

Food rewards for training should be;

Something your dog LOVES!
Cut into small 'pea-size' pieces
Soft
Easy to handle
Varied
Kept in a treat bag around your waist or a small plastic container (not plastic bags)

Experient with different foods at home, so that you learn what your dog finds irresistable and what it isn't fussy about. Food is a great motivator for dogs so long as it's food they actually like!
Some dogs are big fans of raw meat - beef mince is great for those dogs so long as the handler can deal with being a bit messy. Other quite common good treats are chicken cooked with a bit of garlic butter or similar cut up into bits, frankfurter or sausage cut into chunks or Chicken hearts cut in half are good too.
Dogs will generally work better for these 'human' foods, than for processed dog treats that you can buy in the shops. The worse it smells to you, the better it is likely to work as an enticement for your dog. Avoid using crumbly food that might drop to the ground in lots of small pieces as your dog will spend a lot of time trying to pick every crumb up!
It's good to have more than one type of high value reward on you- so you might be using sliced cooked frankfurter for example to reward often for getting small things right, but also have another pocket with some garlicky chicken or possyum which you save for 'very well done' rewards such as coming to you after a recall or walking away from another dog when you ask them too - things that are above and beyond for them. Because they don't know when the really great reward is coming it keeps the value in the frankfurters high. These are treats you might not usually give them at home, which makes working for them at club much more interesting. At home you could use slightly less valued rewards which often are more store brought stuff, kibble, leftover chicken or messy things like peanut butter.

Remember to cut any treats up very small, pea-sized at most. You will be rewarding frequently and don't want your dog to get full. Over the course of the lesson your dog should be getting dozens of treats. Food should be soft, so that they don't waste time chewing. Easy to handle, not sloppy or crumbly. 'Possyum' or 'Superior' dog rolls are commonly used. They can be cut up and frozen into portions ready for class. It keeps it shape well and isn't messy like other dog rolls.

The lists below are not exclusive – what is high value for one dog may be of little interest to another, some trial and error to find what really excites your dog is required.

Examples Of high value rewards
- Possyum
- Frankfurters
- Sausages
- Leftover roast meat
- Garlicky chicken
- Liver cake
- Peanut butter
- Mince meat
- Sliced steak
- Freeze dried Green Tripe

Medium value rewards
- luncheon sausage
- plain chicken
- cheese cubes
- soft smelly store brought dog treats
- liver chips

Low value rewards
- Kibble
- Smacko's type straps

The big thing to remember for the class is
1.) Don't give the dog dinner before you come AND
2.) Make sure you bring lots treats (much more than you think you need!)