**Psy 331. 03 Advanced Laboratory in Operant Behavior**

**Dr. Val Farmer-Dougan**

**Study Guide Week 8: Chains and strategic Reinforcement**

[**Making the connection: Behavior Chains by Karen Pryor**](https://www.clickertraining.com/node/111)

[**Accidental Behavior Chains Part I**](http://www.drjensdogblog.com/accidental-behavior-chains-are-you-training-what-you-think-you-are/)by Jennifer L. Summerfield

[**Accidental Behavior Chains Part II: Fixing them**](http://www.drjensdogblog.com/accidental-behavior-chains-part-2-how-do-we-fix-them/) by Jennifer L. Summerfield

[Pfaller-Sadovsky, et al, (2017) It is mine!! Using clicker training as a treatment of object guarding in 4 companion dogs (Canis lupus familiaris).](https://about.illinoisstate.edu/vfdouga/files/2021/01/Pfaller-Sadovsky_Medina_Hurtado-Parrado.Nov202017clicker-training-food-guarding.pdf)

1. What is strategic reinforcement? Why is it important to use strategic reinforcement?
2. When introducing strategic reinforcement when working with your dog, what variables should you consider?
3. Describe at least 4 strategic reinforcement techniques and tell me when you might use each.
4. What is meant by a "behavioral chain"? What is a forward chain, and what is a backward chain?
5. How do you teach a chain?
6. What is a broken chain? How do broken chains develop? How can you fix a broken chain?
7. Describe a chain that you are currently trying to teach your dog. Describe any problems that you are having. What kind of errors is the dog making? Develop a treatment plan for dealing with this broken chain.
8. Does your dog show any superstitious chain behavior? Describe it if s/he does. How do you think this chain came about, and what can you do to rectify the problem?
9. How can you use strategic reinforcement when shaping the behavior chain you are using with your dog. Describe how this approach will improve both how you teach and how the dog learns the chain.
10. Pfaller-Sadovsky used a backward chain to eliminate aggressive resource guarding behavior in 4 dogs. Why do you think she chose a backward chain, and why do you think chaining the "release the item" sequence was so successful?