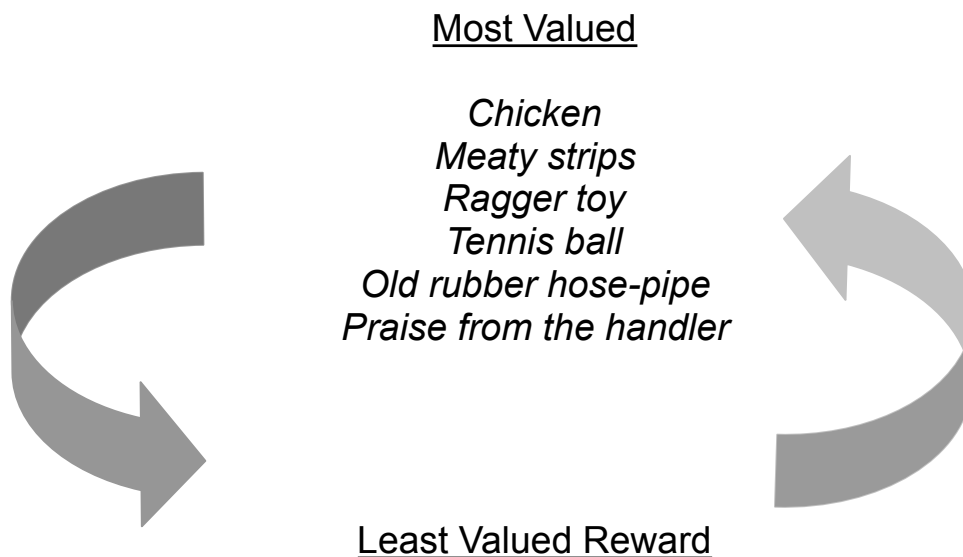


## What is a reward?

A reward is anything that your dog perceives as pleasurable following an event. This can take the form of many things. Toys, food, a free-run, playtime, a tug-o-war, a pat, stroke or smile. Dogs value the strangest of things. Some dogs will not perform the simplest of tasks for less than a meaty strip, yet other dogs such as mine adores nothing better than an old pair of socks.

Whatever the reward, as long as it is perceived as valuable and worth working for to the dog, then that is all that matters. Figuring out which reward works best, in which situation and for what behaviour, is time well spent.

Each dog has a reward hierarchy, a schedule of rewards with varying degrees of value, eg:



Different tasks and behaviours will require different rewards dependant upon several factors. These can include distractions, the complexity of the task, & the work effort involved etc. Therefore the consideration of several factors and observing the behaviour of the dog will conclude with the most appropriate reward being offered to the dog.