K9 NOSEWORK

Homework:

Utilising video recording during sessions, allows us to observe our dogs (as well as ourselves) from different angles. This method provides invaluable insights into our dogs' body language, behaviour, and responses to the games.
By reviewing recorded sessions, we can pinpoint areas for improvement in both our training techniques and our understanding of our dogs' needs.

It will develop your observation skills, helping you to recognise your dog's unique hunting style. This will become more important in the following weeks and later when we introduce target odour.

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Play the games

Game 1 – Hard to get to

Play two games with a different setup

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- Arrange your search area as shown above.
- Find a smaller room to play this
- See if you can block the hides off, so they must find their way to them
    - Box on top of box and hide is behind the higher box
    - Box on chair and there is a bigger box in front
    - Hide under chair and there are some boxes to overcome
    - Hide in box behind a chair and other bigger boxes scattered around
- Run your dog off leash! Use your “search” cue
    - Stop when they stop
    - Stay oriented to them with shoulders, hips and feet
    - Follow the clip
    - Pivot when they arch
    - Step with them when they find a straight line
- Since this is run in a smaller space, you might not be able to follow your dog but make sure your whole body is oriented to them as they search
- When they have found all hides, use your “finish” cue, and lure them out of the search area with a cookie magnet.
- Have a fun exit by throwing treats and praising them lavishly
- Give them a rest while you setup the second run.

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Questions to ask yourself after each search

1. How did my dog do?
2. Was your dog engaged in the game?
3. Did they enjoy playing?
4. Did they want more when you finished?
5. Were you oriented to them?
6. Did they find a particular hide more difficult than another?

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