RETRIEVING GAMES

Game Day 12 – Proofing The Hold

In this step, we are bringing IYC into the game. We want our dog to hold the toy until they hear the click, not because there is food (or other distractions) available. It's about proofing the concept of "don't let go until I tell you to do so."

What you'll need:

- A safe space
- Your dog
- The toys/items your dog has played with in previous games
- Low to high value treats
- A clicker or marker word
- Your dog should be confident with the previous games

©Not to be re-printed without the written permission of Anke's Dog Training. Copyright 2024

RETRIEVING GAMES

Step-by-step guide:

a. Start with low value treats
b. Warm up with a round of IYC.
c. Place the toy on the floor at your feet
d. As your dog picks up the toy, start backing away and open your cookie hand at the height of your stomach.
e. If your dog drops the toy, close your palm like you know from IYC.
f. Wait for your dog to pick up the toy again and repeat above
g. Click for a split second of holding while IYC is in play.
h. Delivery the cookie at your feet

Once your dog has mastered to hold onto the toy despite the food distractor, you can increase your criteria by:

- Increasing the duration of the hold
  - Delay the click a few split seconds, keep moving backwards to make it successful for your dog
  - Gradually increase the duration by delaying the click while moving backwards
  - If in any instances your dog drops the toy prior to the click, close the cookie bar (closed fist) and try again, this time clicking a tiny bit earlier to make it successful.

- Decreasing the height of the treat
  - Lower your cookie hand gradually until it is at the level of your dog's head.
  - Keep a good distance between your cookie hand and your dog to increase success rate.
  - Keep duration short and decrease the distance between cookie hand and your dog.
  - Still keep moving and feed at your feet.

- Combine duration and distance to treat
  - Startin increasing the duration of the hold with the cookie being in front of your dog's nose
  - Keep moving backwards

- Increase the value of the treat
  - Start at the beginning to help your dog succeed
  - Progress through the steps and increase criteria gradually

©Not to be re-printed without the written permission of Anke's Dog Training. Copyright 2024

RETRIEVING GAMES

Click before the dog stops and keep feeding at your feet.

Daily Use: Play this game a few times during the week with different toys/items and in different environments. Play through all stages with a new toy/item or in a new environment. Only change one parameter e.g. new toy OR new environment.

©Not to be re-printed without the written permission of Anke's Dog Training. Copyright 2024