RETRIEVING GAMES

Game Day 13 – Pick up and HT

This step is the preliminary step to a hand delivery. It will be a bit messy to start with but don't despair, it is not a hard behaviour to teach. Our aim is, that the toy makes contact with our hand without taking the toy just yet. For this game it is best to use a larger toy.

What you'll need:

- A confined space
- Your dog
- The toys/items your dog has already played with
- Medium to high value treats
- A clicker or marker word
- Your dog should be familiar with all 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. Warm up with a few games of HT and HT II, making sure to ask your dog to target your hand in different places.
b. Place the toy at your feet but keep standing.

There are now two options of how to proceed. Play with both and see which one works best for you and your dog:

1. Once your dog has picked up the toy, hold your hand target out (approx. height of your kneecap) and start shuffling backwards. Like before this will entice most dogs to keep holding on to the toy while moving towards you. Click a "happy coincidence" of contact with your hand target – the best moment is either your dog's nose touching your hand or the moment where you could have taken the toy out of your dog's mouth but refrain from taking it yet. Reward at your feed

2. Once your dog has picked up the toy, hold your hand target out (approx. height of your kneecap) and keep standing. Ideally, your dog is trying to do a hand target with their toy in their mouth, this would be your moment to click. Any contact with your hand or when you could have taken the toy out of your dog's mouth but refrain from taking it yet. Reward at your feed.

Whichever option works for you, your dog will most probably drop the toy to touch your hand, we still need to teach them, that they can do both. If they drop the toy before touching your hand, simply move your hand away and wait for your dog to pick up the toy again, offer your hand back.

c. After a few reps, your dog will realise that dropping the toy will lose the opportunity of your hand and therefore for reinforcement.
d. Click the toy touching your hand. As the toy is larger and in your dog's mouth, chances are that you will feel the toy before your dog can touch your hand with their nose – click the moment of connection between yourself, toy and dog.
e. When the toy drops to the floor, deliver the treat to the floor.
f. As your dog gets more fluent with this game, start moving away from the toy on the floor a bit. Your dog will pick up the toy again and you can start another repeat.
g. Gradually increase distance between you and the toy on the floor.
h. At this stage, we are still not taking the toy out of our dog's mouth, be patient with this.
i. End your session as you usually do by picking up the toy while your dog is chasing a treat.

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

RETRIEVING GAMES

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. You might find at this stage that you only need a few repetitions of the beginning steps and your dog will progress quicker through the game.

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