RETRIEVING GAMES

Game Day 15 – Wait & Toss

Since your dog is familiar with all the Foundation Games and you played Hot Zone a lot, it is time to bring this game into action.
In this step, we ask our dog to show great understanding of a stationary behaviour (be on your HZ until I release you) while we toss the toy out. Be patient with this stage as the toss will trigger a chasing response in your dog.

What you'll need:

- A confined space
- Your dog
- Your dog's HZ
- Toys/items your dog has already played with
- High value treats
- Your dog's retrieve cue
- Your dog should be familiar with all 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. Ask your dog to jump into their HZ.
b. Crouch (or sit) down beside your dog.
c. Drop a toy on your opposite side and slightly away so your dog can see it. If your dog breaks from their HZ, pick the toy up and try again.
d. Repeat this game a few times until you are standing, and your dog is not leaving their bed.
e. Once the dog waits in their HZ while you drop the toy (while standing), say your retrieve cue.
f. When your dog fetches the toy, put your target hand out and click at the moment the toy is making contact with your hand. We still don't want to take the toy from them.
g. Feed at your feet and repeat the game a few times. Make sure to drop the toy in different locations but still close around HZ (no distance yet).
h. Repeat this game and position your target hand to different areas around the Hot Zone. Click for the connection between toy and your hand.

Once your dog is reliably waiting on their HZ (5 successful waits), it is time to move on to the next step. Remove the HZ.

a. Ask your dog to sit next to you.
b. Drop the toy opposite you, slightly in front so your dog can see it.
c. Watch for your dog's choices – any paw movement or reaching forward.
d. If you see any movement, pick the toy up and try again.
e. When your dog is calm while you drop the toy and is patiently waiting, release them with your retrieve cue.
f. When they retrieve, put your target hand out like you did before.
g. Work up to drop the toy closer and closer to your dog.

When your dog is showing great confidence and understands the game it's time for the next step. Find a corner in your room or make one, something you can toss your toy towards and against. This will help with your throw and your dog for their understanding.

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

RETRIEVING GAMES

a. Stand approx. 1 m away from the corner with your dog in a sit next to you.
b. Toss the toy underhand into the corner.
c. Ask your dog to “Go Get It” and deliver to your hand. Still click for connection only and toy is dropping to the floor after the click. Reward at your feet.
d. With success, increase the distance to 2m.
e. Watch for confidence, no movements or reaching forward when you toss. We want our dog to wait until we release them – a perfect IYC moment.

It is time to add some movement and more fun to the game when your dog is confident with the above step.

a. Have a corner setup like before.
b. After you have tossed the toy and released your dog to pick up the toy, turn around and run into the opposite direction. Make it only a few steps to start with. No need to say anything to your dog, just turn and run.
c. When they catch up to you, turn around and put your target hand out. Click and reward for the touch.
d. Increase the distance and play in different environments.
e. Do you have the bravery to play this in your backyard? If not, maybe with the door open?

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