GO GET IT

Game Day 8 - Hand Targets II

Hand Targets are one of my favourite games and behaviour. We are upping the game and are adding a little bit more excitement and anticipation.
Once again, we are continuing to build value for your dog to be with you and to play together even when arousal might be higher.

What you'll need:

- Your dog
- Yummy treats
- Tug toy
- Your mobile phone on a tripod to video your session

Your dog should be familiar with IYC, Collar Grab and Hand Targets.

Start off with a fun arousing run session or tug game to connect with each other.

Step-by-step-guide:

a. Warm up with a few rounds of Hand Targets. Make sure your mechanics are impeccable. Watch for firm and strong Hand Targets. Remember to use your verbal cue as well and reward in your cupped hand.
b. Add some little restrain by either holding your dog by their collar or against their chest. When your dog is focused on your hand say your cue and release them. Reward either by throwing a cookie for more excitement or reward as usual to mouth.
c. Integrate IYC above your dog's head – can they still touch your hand with the cookie hovering over them?
d. Play on both sides and with and without your verbal cue.
e. Pay in different environments!

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Advance the game

Are you ready to add some distractions to the game?

a. Go through your dog's distraction list and start with a low-level distraction
b. Work your way up to a distraction level 8 – 10.
c. Make sure to get at least 6 really good Hand Targets before moving to the higher distraction and remember that when your dog makes a mistake (e.g. going for the distraction) it is great information for you and an opportunity to learn!
d. If appropriate, you can use the distraction as a reward when your dog is giving you some nice and firm touches.

Daily Use:

This is a great game to use as a "get going" game before playing other games.

For dogs that get overexcited, this game can help them with self-control and paying attention to you. It's the go to game to gauge your dog's value for the work. Are they too distracted by the environment that they can't think?

Play at least 5 times today with 5 hand targets on each hand. Be sure to have your "ultimate" hand touch in mind and don't settle for less. Remember you get more of what you reward!

Play in different areas each time you play today and keep the movement up!

Troubleshooting: If your dog does a "drive by", look at their arousal level or the distraction you have placed. Can you adjust anything.
Review Hand Targets to see if there is enough value in this game for your dog before proceeding to this game. The same troubleshooting applies as in the Hand Target Game for licking, biting or almost touching.

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Checklist:

1. Have you videoed and reviewed your session?
2. Did you notice any difference in intensity when you played with your right or your left hand?
3. Did you notice any difference in intensity when you used a verbal cue vs no verbal cue?
4. Was your dog comfortable with the restrain?
5. Could you dog focus on the game with the added distractions?

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