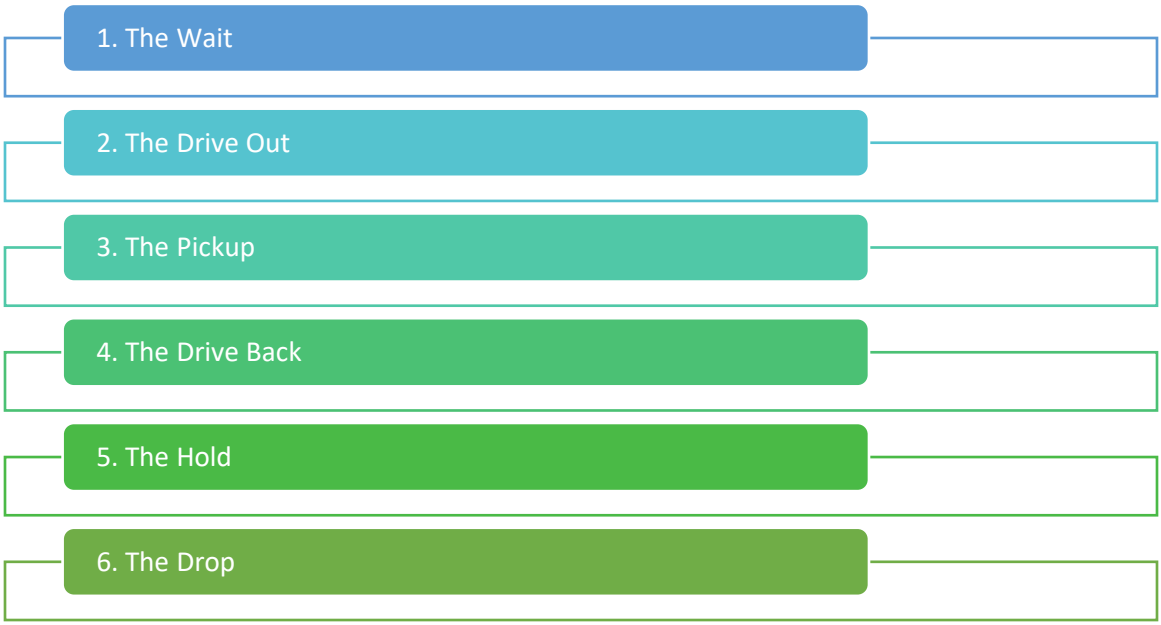
GO GET IT

🎾 Game 9 – Shaping Toy Pickup

Curiosity becomes commitment.

Before we get started, let's break down the 6 behaviours we need from our dog to retrieve:



🎾 Why This Game Matters:

This is where retrieve mechanics begin. We shape deliberate interaction before expecting lifts.

🎾 What You'll Need:

- Your dog
- Neutral toy
- High-value treats
- Phone on tripods

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🎾 Step-by-Step-Guide:

1. Set Up

Low distracting space. Toy on the floor. You are sitting on the floor or in a chair.

2. Build the Behaviour

a. Mark investigations – throw cookie for a reset
b. Then mark nose touches
c. Then mouth contact
d. End your session:

- throw cookie away and pick up the toy

3. Add a Layer

Wait for brief lifts.

End session with cookie throws before picking up the toy.

4. Raise Criteria

Increase the duration of mouth contact/lifting gradually. Be mindful to not ask your dog to give up their toy yet.

🎾 Advancing the Game

Multiple clean brief lifts in a row = ready for structured pick-ups → Game 10

🎾 Checklist:

1. Is engagement deliberate?
2. Is chewing minimal?
3. Are sessions short?

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