HUNTING GAMES – THE FOUNDATIONS

🎾 Game 13 – The Pick-Ups

Lift the toy/item with intention.

🎾 Why This Game Matters

Clear lifts prevent sloppy retrieves later.

🎾 What You'll Need

- Your dog
- Training toy
- High-value treats
- Phone on tripod

🎾 Step-by-Step-Guide:

1. **Set Up**

Place toy in same position each time.

2. **Build the Behaviour**

Mark only when the toy leaves the floor.

3. **Add a Layer**

Require slightly longer lifts.

4. **Raise Criteria**

Add consistency before increasing difficulty.
Use different toys and objects – start at the beginning.
Start varying your position.

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Only change one thing at a time:

- Environment OR
- Item/toy OR
- Position

🎾 Advancing the Game

Throw the cookie into different directions for new angles.

5 clean lifts in a row = ready for hold duration → Game 14.

Take your time with this game!

🎾 Troubleshooting

My dog doesn't pick up the toy when I delay the click.

- look for other behaviours
    - touching the toy harder
    - opening mouth when approaching

These are behaviours worth rewarding to work in approximation.

My dog doesn't drop the toy when I click.

- use your "search" cue and throw a cookie

🎾 Checklist

1. Are lifts calm?
2. Is your timing precise?
3. Did you throw cookies into different directions?

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