HUNTING GAMES – THE FOUNDATIONS

🎾 Game 20 – The Transition

In Your Crate!

🎾 Why This Game Matters

Using learned skills to build other behaviours has great advantages – it provides clarity and speeds up learning. Using your dog's understanding of a Hot Zone can easily be transitioned into a crate without stress.

🎾 What You'll Need:

- Foldable Hot Zone
- Crate with non-slip floor
- Medium to High Value Treats
- Phone on tripod

🎾 Step-by-Step-Guide

1. Set Up

Organise your training area without your dog. Place the crate in a quiet room with some space.

2. Build the Behaviour

- Warm up by sending your dog to their Hot Zone
- Slide the Hot Zone over the entrance of the crate → one part is inside; the other part is outside.
- Send your dog to their Hot Zone, reward with a treat dive when their front feet touches.
- Repeat for two reps

3. Add a Layer

- Place the HZ into the crate.

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- Send your dog to the Hot Zone. High value reward with a cookie toss into the crate when they are inside.
- Medium value reset cookie outside
- Repeat a few times.
- On your next repetition, throw a cookie in and hand feed for being in the crate.

4. Raise Criteria

Change the cue by using your new cue first, wait a second and follow up with your old cue. E.g., In Your Crate…Hop It Up.

Repeat a couple of times, drop your old cue.

🎾 Advancing the Game

- Remove the mat (but leave the non-slip floor in)
- Play a few rounds

Make your dog's crate a comfortable space.

🎾 Daily Use

Play this game a few times during the week. Once your dog is reliably hopping in their crate on cue, take the game into different rooms of your house and into your backyard. You will see that it will be an easy transition.

🎾 Checklist

1. Did you review your session?
2. Did you keep sessions short?
3. How did you dog's T.E.M.P look?
4. Did you play in different environments?

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