HUNTING GAMES – THE FOUNDATIONS

🎾 Game 23 – Single Cone Wrap

This game builds focus away from the handler.

🎾 Why This Game Matters

Cone Wrap has multiple uses. Firstly, it is a skill to introducing cavaletti poles safely. We want our dogs to focus forward when they go through cavaletti for proper head and spine alignment.

Secondly, it enhances your dog's targeting skills at a distance. This skill can later be used to go around circles at a distance and for directional cues during hunting.

🎾 What you'll need

- Your dog
- 2 cones or similar item to wrap around
- Low value treats
- Phone on tripod

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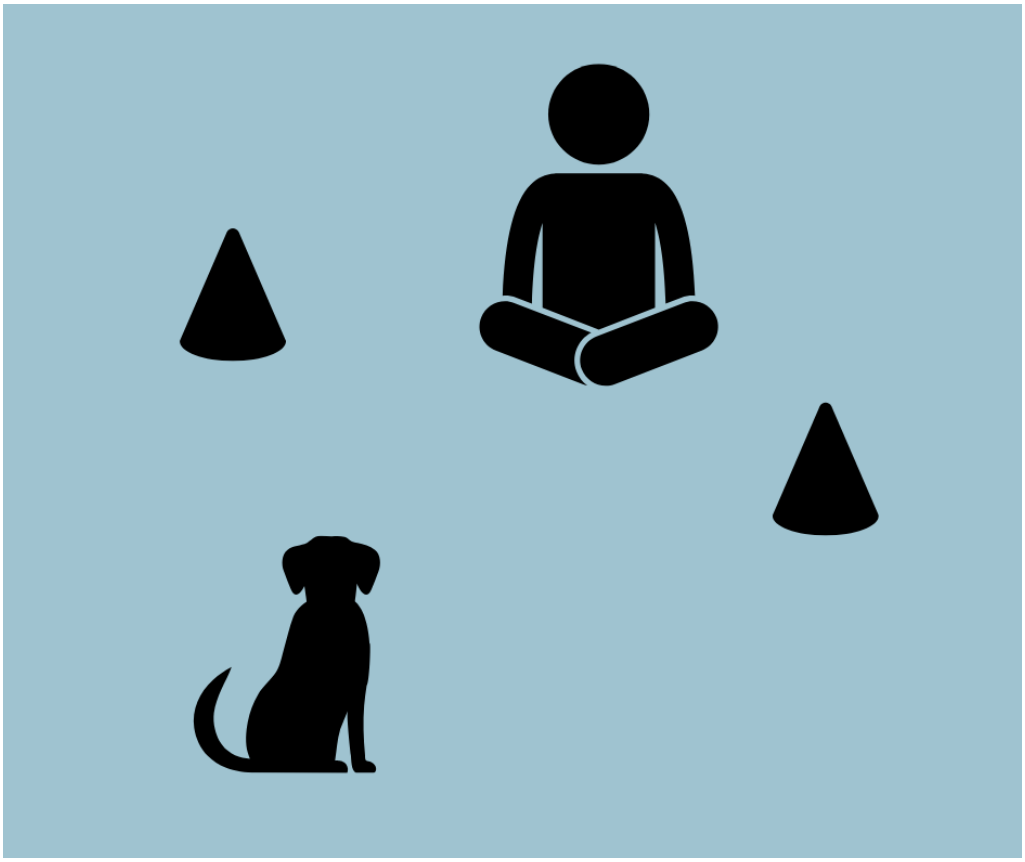
🏸 Step-by-Step-Guide

1. Set Up

Start this game on non-slippery flooring in a low distracting environment. Prepare your area without your dog

Setup:



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2. Build the Behaviour

- With a cookie in your left hand, lure your dog past the vertical axis of the cone.
- Mark “yes” when they are past the axis.
- Place the cookie on the floor behind the cone, to encourage your dog’s forward movement around.
- Mark “yes”
- Follow up with another cookie on the floor in front of the cone to move our dog further.
- Throw a reset cookie.
- Repeat 4 times.
- Swap sides.
- Repeat the same steps as above on the left side.
- Repeat 5 times.

You will find that your dog might have a stronger side.

3. Add a Layer

- With a cookie in your right hand, put your hand out to the cone
- Your hand will stay in front of the vertical axis.
- Mark “yes” when your dog’s head is around the axis
- Omitting first reward on the floor behind the cone to keep the dog moving forward.
- Mark “yes” and place reward in front of cone when the dog’s head is AROUND the cone to make the turn.
- Follow up with a cookie in front to encourage that forward movement.
- Reset cookie.
- Repeat 4 times.
- Swap sides and repeat 5 times.

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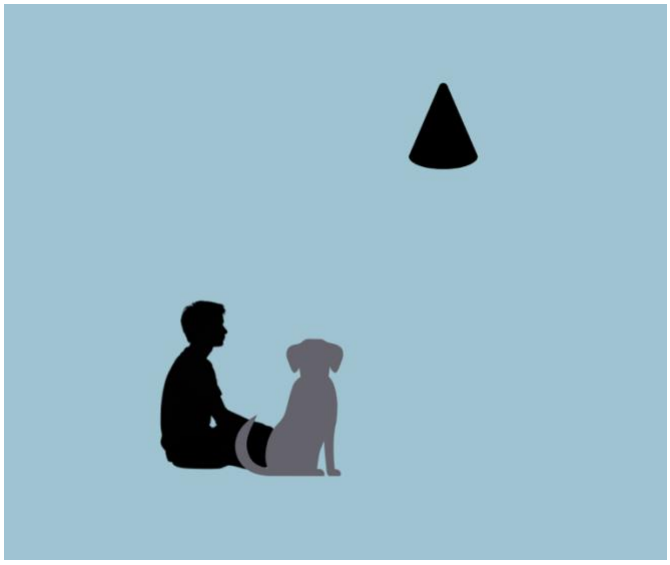
4. Raise Criteria

- Without a cookie in your hand use that same hand signal to cue your dog to start the movement forward.
- Mark “yes” and reward behind the cone on the floor WITH your other hand.
- Mark “yes” and reward on the floor in front of the cone when the dog’s head comes around.
- Reset cookie.
- Repeat 4 times.
- Swap sides and repeat 5 times.

🎾 Advancing the Game



- Change your setup as shown above
- With your dog on one side, give your hand signal.
- As your dog wraps around the cone, mark “yes”, tossing the treat in front of the cone.
- Reset cookie.
- Repeat 4 times
- Swap sides
- Repeat 5 times

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🎾 Troubleshooting

*My dog cut in front of the cone***.**

Whenever your dog makes a mistake, throw a reset cookie and start again. Be mindful of your mechanics, maybe they have influenced the wrong choice? Review your setup and change the environment, e.g. move closer to the cone you want your dog to wrap around.

When your dog struggles with progression, go back to the earlier stage. Use the "Push, Stick, Drop" rules to gauge your dog's understanding.

5 repetitions:

- Your dog is correct 5/5 or 4/5 - increase criteria. I
- Your dog is correct 3/5 - stick to your criteria and continue to build confidence.
- Your dog is correct 2/5 - drop your criteria.

Build your dog's understanding by reviewing your reward placement, timing of your marker and if you have used the same hand signal throughout.

🎾 Daily Use

Practice this skill in different environments and you sitting on either side of the cone. This will help your dog to generalise the behaviour.
Once your dog is fluent with this setup, start to slowly stand up.

🎾 Checklist

1. Have you reviewed your session?
2. Is your hand signal consistent?
3. Does your placement of reward provide clarity?
4. Is your dog confident to go away from you?
5. Look at your dog's T.E.M.P (Tails, Ears/Eyes, Mouth, Posture)

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