HUNTING GAMES – THE FOUNDATIONS

🎾 Game 24 - Cookie in da corner

Let the chase begin.

🎾 Why This Game Matters

This game teaches your dog the following:

1. When it is appropriate to go and get a treat from the floor.
2. A tight turn back to you for a retrieve.
3. A head whip and drive to you when they hear their name or recall word.

The corner will ensure that the cookie will land in a central location. This will create a predictable reward zone for your dog and creates focus ahead.

🎾 What You'll Need

- Your dog
- Treats (or toy) of different value.

🎾 Step-By-Step-Guide

1. Setup

Chose an area with non-slippery floor.

Your mechanics in this game a crucial, it is easiest to practice these without your dog first.

Dog is on the left:

- Your right hand will come across your body and grab the dog's collar from underneath.
- Your left hand will come over your right arm, next to your dog's head.
- The high value treat will be in your right hand, ready to reward when you called.

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- The low value treat will be in your left hand, ready to be thrown. This will make sure your dog sees where you throw the cookie.

Dog is on the right:

- Your left hand will come across your body and grab the dog's collar from underneath.
- Your right hand will come over your left arm, next to your dog's head.
- The high value treat will be in your left hand, ready to reward when you called.
- The low value treat will be in your right hand, ready to be thrown. This will make sure your dog sees where you throw the cookie.

Make sure that your dog can see when you throw the cookie. Practice a wrist flick, this will help your dog to see the trajectory of the treat and where it lands.

2. Build the Behaviour

- Grab your dog's collar, using the mechanics you have practiced.
- Drop the low value treat on the floor just in front of your dog.
- Let go of the collar and say "get it".
- When your dog eats the low value treat, call them.
- When they turn back to you, take their collar, say "cook" and reward with the high value reward or play a game of tug.
- Play a couple of rounds, alternating your throwing and collar holding hand.

3. Add a Layer

- Your dog on your left
- Stand close to the corner, grab your dog's collar with your right hand.
- With your left hand, throw the cookie into the corner. If your dog doesn't follow the cookie and see where it lands, stop the game and try again.
- The moment the cookie hits the corner, release your dog's collar, say "get it".
- As soon as your dog heads for the cookie, turn on your right, run off into the opposite direction, calling your dog (name or recall word).
- When they catch up, take their collar, say "cook" and reward with the high value treat or play a game of tug.

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4. Raise Criteria

- Build up excitement by holding onto your dog's collar for longer
- Create a positive trigger by saying "Oh, do you want this?"
- Be unpredictable by releasing quickly or holding on longer
- Increase distance to the corner
- Delay your running away
- Play on both sides
- Add The Collar Grab Game unpredictably

🎾 Troubleshooting

My dog is mugging me for the treats in my hand

Revisit IYC. Work through this until they realise the cookies in your hand are there to be earned!

My dog is more interested in the crumps on the floor than chasing me

Treat this like any other "mistake". Go over and without saying anything grab your dog's collar and lead them away from the distraction. Call again and praise lavishly when they come but do not give a cookie.
Clean up the crumps repeat the game.

🎾 Daily Use

Play at least 5 sessions today, choosing different corners (or make up corners in different rooms) and playing on both sides!

Once you and your dog are comfortable inside, move the game into your backyard and slowly add some distractions to the game.

Take it on the road! Since there are hardly any corners conveniently waiting for us in the great outdoors, find a spot where you can throw the cookie without it bouncing away and your dog being able to see it land.

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🎾 Checklist:

1. Did you review your session?
2. Do you have clean mechanics?
3. Did your dog anticipate the cookie to land?

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