HUNTING GAMES – THE FOUNDATIONS

🎾 Game 25 – Multiple Hot

Send your dog form one Hot Zone to another.

🎾 Why This Game Matters

This game is a lot of fun for both, handler, and dog. Can your dog listen to your cue and run to the HZ you send them to? Can they stay on their HZ until you release them?

🎾 What you'll need

- Space with non-slip flooring
- Your dog
- 3 similar targets
- Medium-Value treats
- Phone on a tripod

🎾 Step-by-Step-Guide

1. Set up

Prepare your area without your dog being present.

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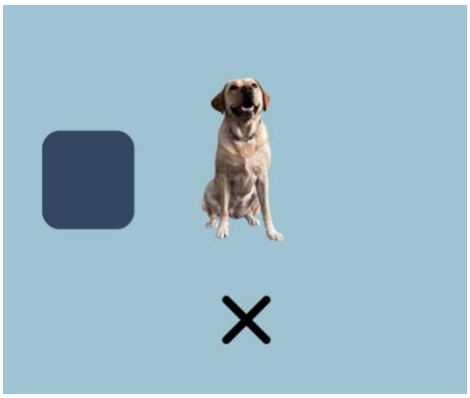
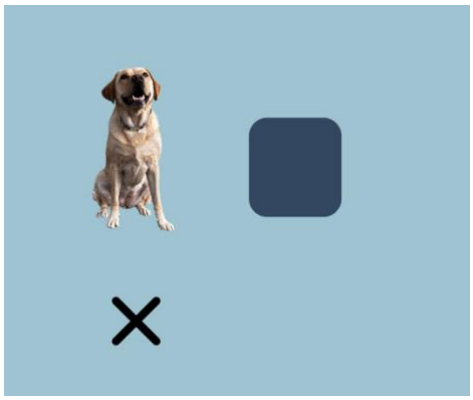
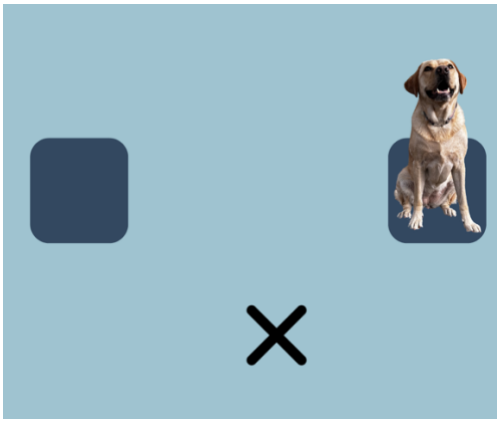
2. Build the Behaviour





- Warm up with the Hot Zone Game – one target only
- Stand in front of your dog
- Raise your left arm and cue “Hop it Up”
- Reward when they have reached the HZ!
- Repeat 3 times
- Place target on the other side of your dog and repeat 4 times

3. Add a Layer



- With your dog waiting on HZ, place another target close by
- Stand in front of your dog, between the two targets
    - Ask your dog to sit on their current HZ.

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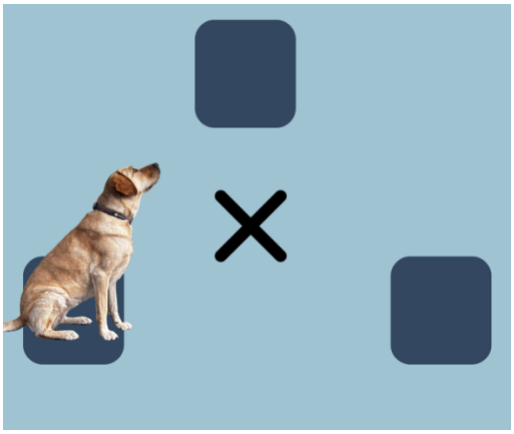
- Raise your arm, say your verbal cue – e.g. raise arm – "hop it up".
- When your dog starts the movement to the other target, say "search", tossing a treat onto the target.
- Reward on the new HZ.
- Walk back to your position and play again.
- Repeat 6 times.
- Add some downs or sits before releasing them. Reward these.
- Increase the distance between targets.
- Repeat 5 times.
- Mix up delivery by EITHER tossing a treat or treat to mouth on the HZ.
- Increase the distance even more.
- Play another round until your dog is fluently moving from one to the other.

4. Raise Criteria



- With your dog waiting on a HZ, form a triangle by adding a third target.
- Stand in the middle.
- Release – raise arm – cue to the target.
- Reward your dog on the HZ.
- Repeat by sending them around the triangle.
- At times, ask for a down or sit on the target before you release them again.
- Mix up the directions – we want them to focus, not to predict.

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- After a few repetitions, release your dog, only using your hand signal (pointing at the target) to send them.
- Only use your hand signal from now on.
- Ask for sits & downs before releasing.

🎾 Troubleshooting:

My dog will not stop on the target

Review your HZ Foundations and take not of your mechanics. Tossed cookies should land ON the target.
Reward for being on the target.
Reduce distance.

🎾 Daily use

This game teaches our dogs to focus on us and listen to our cues, even when the arousal is a bit higher. They need to think about what they are doing instead of mindlessly running around. The game prepares for directional cues, later in their Hunting journey.

🎾 Checklist

1. Have you reviewed your session?
2. Is your dog confident to move between targets?
3. Look at your dog's T.E.M.P (Tails, Ears/Eyes, Mouth, Posture)
4. Is your dog anticipating or waiting?

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