HUNTING GAMES – THE FOUNDATIONS

🎾 Game 4 - It's Yer Choice (IYC)

Access to reinforcement depends on your dog's choice!

🎾 Why This Game Matters

The message is simple:

Work with me first… and then you can have what you want.

It's not just a game.
It's a lifestyle.

🎾 What You'll Need

1. Your dog
2. Treats
    a. High food-driven dog? Use lower value treats or kibble
    b. Less motivated dog? Use higher value treats
3. Phone on a tripod

🎾 Step-by-Step Guide

1. Set Up

a. Sit comfortable in a chair.
b. Anchor your elbow on your knee.
c. Position your hand below your dog's head height when they are standing or sitting.

The setup makes success easier.

©Not to be re-printed without the written permission of Anke's Dog Training. Copyright 2024

HUNTING GAMES – THE FOUNDATIONS

2. Build the Behaviour

a. Place several treats in your hand, close your fist.
b. Extend your closed hand toward your dog
c. Allow them to sniff, lick, nibble – keep your first close and elbow steady on your knee.
d. Stay silent. Be patient.

Especially with food-driven dogs, this may take a moment.

3. Add a Layer

When your dog backs away: Open your hand.

Now observe their choice.

1. If they drive for the treat → calmly close your hand
2. If they remain in position → we progress to step 4.

Repeat until you have choice No. 2.

4. Raise Criteria

Your dog remains in a position with your open hand:

a. Say your marker word (“cook”).
b. Observe their choice.

Because this is the first time you’ve spoken, they may move forward expecting the treat. That’s OK – simply close your hand again.

©Not to be re-printed without the written permission of Anke’s Dog Training. Copyright 2024

HUNTING GAMES – THE FOUNDATIONS

When your dog can remain in position after hearing “cook”:

a. Pick up a treat.
b. Delivery it directly to their mouth.

If they move forward while you reach for the treat, put it back and close your fist.

The reward comes to the dog.

In your next rep:

c. Can they offer a sit?
d. Can they offer a down?

Repeat the same steps for each position. Give them a moment to think, refrain from verbally giving a cue.

Mix positions so they understand that reinforcement is not tied to only one behaviour.

🎾 Advancing the Game

Offer different positions in the presence of cookies in an open palm = place them on the floor Game 3!

©Not to be re-printed without the written permission of Anke’s Dog Training. Copyright 2024

HUNTING GAMES – THE FOUNDATIONS

🎾 Daily Use

IYC quickly moves beyond a “training game”.

Imagine:

a. You drop food in the kitchen.
b. Your dog pauses instead of diving.
c. You give permission: “Get it” (to come in Game 3)

That’s lifestyle IYC.
Instead of micromanaging, you create clarity around reinforcement.

🎾 Checklist

1. Did you review your session?
2. Is your dog engaged?
3. How does their T.E.M.P look throughout the stages?
4. Does your dog understand the Location Specific Marker?

©Not to be re-printed without the written permission of Anke’s Dog Training. Copyright 2024