HUNTING GAMES – GROWING TOGETHER

🎾 Drive to Toy

Build desire and speed!

🎾 Why This Game Matters

This game will help with forward drive and speed to go out and away from you at a distance. A great skill not only for Retrieving Games but other dog sports where you want your dog to focus forward, full speed ahead.

Drive to toy also grows your “Go Get It” foundations.

🎾 What You’ll Need

- Your dog
- Variety of toys
- Food toy
- Phone on Tripod

🎾 Step-By-Step-Guide

1. Set Up

Chose an area with non-slippery floor.

Play with different toys.

2. Build the Behaviour

- Hold your dog on their chest with a little bit of pressure
- Throw your toy a short distance away
- Release your dog with “get it” or your retrieve cue
- Race your dog to the toy but let them overtake
- Celebrate when they get to the toy, picking it up
- If your faster than your dog, race them on your knees

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3. Add a Layer

- Once your dog is happy to drive to the toy, past you, increase the distance of the throw
- Further advance the game by leading out
    - this can be played from Crate Games

4. Raise Criteria

Increasing distance with a food toy:

- Restrain your dog by the shoulder (play left and right)
- Throw the toy out
- Release your dog with your cue, moving forward with them
- When they are committed to get the toy, turn around, run into the other direction (keep an eye on your dog)
- When they return the toy to you, open it up, let the treats fall to the ground, cue “search”
- Keep the energy up
- Repeat on other side

Increase distance with a tug toy:

- As above
- When they return the toy to you, have a celebration tug game
- Play on both sides

🎾 Daily Use

In the initial phase it can help to play this game in your hallway, where your dog has little choice than coming back to you. Revisit your Retrieving Games, IYC and Crate Games if needed.

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🎾 Checklist:

1. Did you review your session?
2. Who won the race?
3. Did you keep the energy up?

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