HUNTING GAMES – GROWING TOGETHER

🎾 Game 31 - The 1-2-3 Game

The 1-2-3 Game is an energy loaded game that is another extension of Crate Games.

🎾 Why This Game Matters

This game will help with your dog's understanding of sit when the game ends and holding that position until released. It's a great relationship builder, grows your dog's confidence as they learn to understand criteria and builds phenomenal self-control.

Your dog learns that he is in control of the fun if he plays it your way. We are adding words and movement to teach the dog discriminating between the actual release cue and anything else that might be said.

We are looking for self-control to get the game started, a driven release and a chase to come to you. This is a game of immediate reactions and an intense focus!

🎾 What You'll Need

- Your dog
- High-value tug toy
- High-value treats
- Phone on tripod

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🎾 Step-by-Step-Guide

This game is best played in a secured outdoor area.

Try to play this game full out but progress at your dog's pace.

Start with an arousing game of tug.

1. Build the Behaviour

- Play a round of IYC on the Run -either with play or food.
- As soon as your dog's bottom hits the ground, release - turn - run away.
- When your dog has caught up with you, reward in RZ!
- Make this game quick and fun!

2. Add a Layer

- Start with IYC on the Run.
- When your dog sits, take a step or two ahead of them.
- Bend down, one hip facing your dog, your reward is in your opposite hand – this is your Game On! position.
- Resist the urge to cue your dog, we are going to use only our body movement to encourage attention.
- If they look away, stand up straight.
- When they look back at you, bend down again.
- Give your release cue when they are paying attention, turn, run away.
- Reward in RZ when they catch up with you.

🎾 Troubleshooting

My dog is getting up before I release them or when I move.

Gently take them by their collar, guide them back to their position. No words needed.

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Next

- Stay longer in your Game On! Position by delaying the release – this creates anticipation and excitement
- During this delay, you can take a few steps further away, breathing deeply – this will build up some drive, your dog anticipating the release very soon.
- Run away, reward in RZ.

Next

- While delaying the release, add the word "T-H-R-E-E" in, using a drawn-out tone.
    - this might lead to a self-release – gently guide them back, wait for a sit
- When your dog is staying, say "T-H-R-E-E" & your release cue
- Run away, reward in RZ.
- Repeat until your dog keeps sitting until released

This step will help your dog to discriminate between the release cue and other words, helping them to better understand what the release word is.

3. Raising Criteria

- Go into your Game On! Position, say "T-w-o-o-o – T-h-r-e-e – [release cue]
- Turn, run away, reward in RZ
- Repeat 3 times
- Say O-n-e – T-w-o – T-h-r-e-e – [release cue]", turn, run away
- Big party

🎾 Troubleshooting

My dog is getting up during different stages of the game.

Revisit Crate Games and use words as a distraction.

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My dog is mugging me for treats/toy.

Revisit IYC & IYC Progression. Look at all weak links and review your foundation games.

🎾 Advancing the Game

Once your dog is solid with no added distractions, you can add some low-level distractions and see how much your dog understands – can you sit and wait for my release no matter what?

🎾 Daily Use

This is such a fun and energizing game, teaching your dog what the release cue really means. Play this game at least 5 times today, repetition helps learning! Change your environment throughout the day.

🎾 Checklist

1. Did you review your session?
2. What stages did your dog struggle with most?
3. Rate your dog's understanding of the release cue.
4. Did your dog drive into RZ?

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