HUNTING GAMES – GROWING TOGETHER

🎾 Game 34 - Catch me if you can

This fast and fun game taps into our dog's hunting instinct.

🎾 Why This Game Matters

Ignite your dog's love for chase - become the prey while your dog is the hunter, trying to catch you! Fast and full of joy, you and your dog will build a connection that will last forever!

🎾 What You'll Need

- Your dog
- Good footwear
- High-value tug toy or high-value treats

🎾 Step-by-Step-Guide

1. Set Up

Make sure you are wearing safe footwear, and you are playing on a non-slippery surface to avoid injuries in your and your dog.

"Catch me if you can" requires some good pre-game planning to strategize your route and your escape from your dog. Make sure the environment is safe and where you can control the distractions (e.g., no other dogs around that would start chasing your dog).

You'll need a "circuit" to race around. E.g., a large trunked tree, a large sofa, a room-to-room circuit or any other large object. Ideally you can be out of sight every so often.

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2. Build the Behaviour

- Warm up with a game of “Let’s Dance” or “Tag & Tug”
- After warming up, try to get some distance from your dog.
    - This will be the hard part since you have been creating so much value for yourself.
- Back away, fake them out by pretending to go one way, bounce from side to side, take off.
- If you are fast, you could get away after “Tag & Tug”.
- Try to get out of sight – the chase is on!
- When your dog catches up with you, have a good play!
- Repeat 3 – 5 times

3. Raise Criteria

- Are you ready to hide?
- Hide somewhere after dashing off, watch your dog racing past, hoping to catch you.
- Come out of your hiding spot and make a soft sound when you’re coming out of your hiding spot, run into the other direction.

🎾 Troubleshooting

I can’t get away from my dog.

Pretend to throw a cookie or a toy around the corner.
Throw a few cookies on the floor for them to find.

Let them get distracted before racing off.

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🎾 Daily Use

You are increasing the love for chasing you. The trick is to be out of sight for some moments - our dogs never really know where the prey (you) is! It is so much fun watching your dog chasing you and the anticipation and excitement to “catch” you!

Make it even more exciting by vocalising before they catch up. Just like prey would do! Have fun and laugh out loud!

This is also a great game to surprise your dog with on walks. Make sure the environment is safe and your dog won’t dash off to hunt actual prey!

Play in many different environments.

🎾 Checklist

1. Was your “racetrack” well planned?
2. How hard was it to dash away?
3. Was your dog anticipating where the prey would go?
4. Did you play in different environments?

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