

Basic Training – Tuggy and Touch

Target practice

1. Hold food treat in your hand behind your “target” (bit of cardboard/carpet square or circular shape)
2. Praise and reward dog for touching the target with their nose (make sure reward is instant – and can be followed by “yes good boy/girl”).
3. Raising criteria – dog to now touch target with **one paw**.
 - + Do not reward now unless dog touches the target with their paw.
4. Raising criteria – dog to now touch target with **both paws**.
 - + Raise the target higher so the dog has to reach for it with both paws.
 - + Lots of positive verbal praise and treats (but treat reward must be instant)

Important

Do not move onto the next step until the dog fully understands each stage.

If you feel the dog is uncertain of what you want - go back a stage.

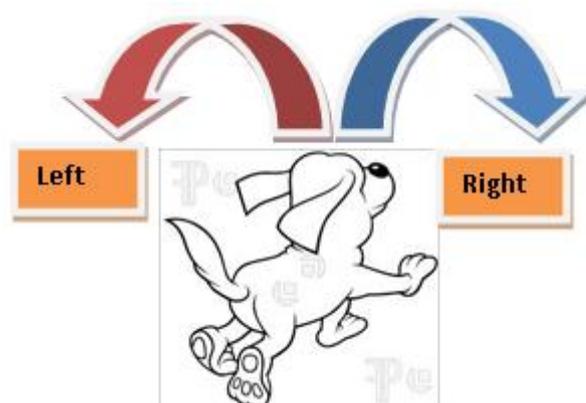
No pointing at the target – the dogs need to work out for themselves what they have to do.

Do not rush through the stages – each stage needs to be firmly embedded so that your dog has a good technique to move onto the next stage.

Turning

We need to know which way your dog prefers to turn. Dogs are like humans and are either left or right handed. This is important for knowing which way they will eventually turn on the box.

1. Throw a toy for your dog.
2. Get them to retrieve it and call them back to you straight away, note which way they turn to come back to you.
3. Do step 2 a few times and you should start to see that your dog prefers to turn one way or the other



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Tuggy:

1. Hold your tuggy (fabric/rope or furry toy) in your left hand **always!**
2. Play with tuggy toy so that the dog knows it's a reward (you can also use verbal praise to encourage the dog) it needs to be really exciting!

3. Ideally – tuggy games (2 people needed)

- ✚ One person needs to hold the dog this person can say “ready, ready, ready”
- ✚ The other person needs to run away (not facing the dog) with the tuggy (always in the left hand)
- ✚ Start with a small distance and increase gradually.
- ✚ Only reward the dog if he/she runs to the left hand side of you for the tuggy. Do not reward if the dog runs round the right hand side of you to get the tuggy. **Make sure the tuggy game is really fun and exciting – so the dog wants more**

Important

Never tell your dog to stay or wait they must be eager to chase after the person running away.

Keep the tuggy only as a “flyball toy” so at all other times needs to be away so the dog cannot play with it – it is a game for handler and dog together.

Recall

A good recall is a very important part of flyball. When racing in competitions there can be up to 12 dogs in the ring at one time, therefore, it is very important that you have control over your dog at all times.