

Canine Kinship

www.caninekinshipmaine.com



Ready...Steady...Get it!

Teaching your puppy to play tug and building motivation

Game rules:

1. If you have many tug or tug like toys lying around, pick them up, put them in a bag and stick them in a closet. Reserve tug as a game that you choose to play with your dog.
2. Find a tug toy that your dog is naturally drawn to. Try different textures, and shapes. Some dogs like wool toys, others fur and others will play with anything.
3. End the game while the dog is still having fun and put the toy someplace where he cant get it

Getting Started

1. Place a few yummy treats in your pockets
2. Take out your 'special toy' and get excited about it. Toss it up in the air, squeal, laugh and toss it from hand to hand. Make your dog WANT to think you have the best toy in the world!
3. Once your dog is curious about the great thing you have in your hand, kneel on the ground and show it to him. Turn it 'into a squirrel' moving it around quickly in from of him.
4. Laugh, have fun! Thump the side of the dog lightly and make noise (growl).
5. Once your dog grabs the toy, tug from side to side and NOT up and down. This will protect your dog from injury.
6. Using the law of opposition, continue to tug and encourage the game for a few minutes. Don't take your hand off the toy!
7. Take a treat from your pocket and place it under your dogs nose, stop tugging and say 'drop it'
8. Once your puppy drops the toy, give him the treat and hide the toy behind your back.
9. Present the toy and repeat 1 or 2 more times

Ready ..Steady ..GET IT!

1. After your puppy gets excited about the game, show the puppy the toy, but this time hold ONTO the collar.
2. Toss the toy out a few feet and Say ...Ready..Steady...Get it!
3. Let go of your puppy and let them get the toy, but be sure you can swoop in and grab the toy to continue the tug game.
4. Use a treat under the pups nose to and ask to 'drop it'

If your puppy isn't interested in tugging at all...there are toys you can purchase that allow you to put treats in them to encourage tugging.

Be sure to ALWAYS end the game while the puppy is still having fun! Remember you are not only your dogs' leader, caretaker, educator and protector, you are also their playmate!!

To find great articles on motivation or to purchase quality tug toys, please visit www.cleanrun.com

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