

Mouse Game

Dogs learn fast when they play games with food. The skills developed and strengthened via the Mouse Game will transfer to your more formal training sessions as well as day to day life with your dog.



Benefits of the Mouse Game

This game builds an intense focus and develops the skills of concentration whilst teaching a young dog to manage their sense of anticipation.

You will need:

- Food that shows up against the flooring, cut small 1cm
- The ability to flick or throw food

How to play

1. Begin by throwing out the first piece of food
2. As your dog turns back deliver (flick or throw) another piece of food to arrive at their feet
3. As you dog begins to wait 'out there' for the food to arrive, slow down the rate of delivery



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK6Y8vAbt4k>

Key points

1. Look at the food rather than your dog. Watch your dog in your peripheral vision
2. Do not cover the food with your hand. If your dog is coming in too fast increase the speed and/or distance of the throw out
3. Until you are skilled avoid areas where food is easily lost under furniture
4. If you cannot kneel on the floor, the game can be played from a chair. You can flick the food off the palm of your hand.

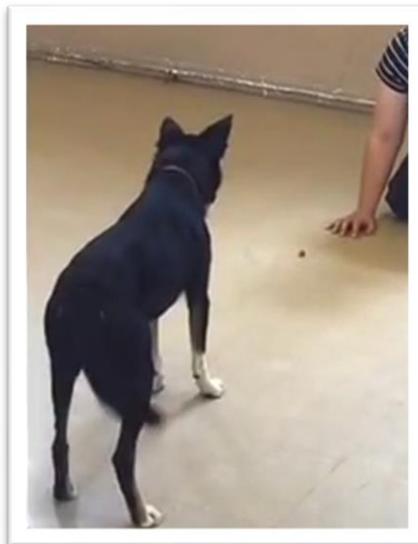
Superstitious behaviour

If we are too slow in flicking or throwing the food, then our dogs will insert what dog trainers call superstitious behaviour. This is behaviour that has no relation to the appearance of the food, but the dog believes that it does. These behaviours have no future, if you see them appearing, speed up your delivery of the food or stop the game. Superstitious behaviours often have their routes in fatigue.

This is a longer version of the Mouse game video, you can observe superstitious behaviour at 42 secs, lying down and 54 secs, creeping forwards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRJ0eSfKIQc>

Other behaviours might include barking, paddling of front feet, spinning. None of these behaviours belong in this game.



What next?

If you are struggling with tug play or any other aspects of your dog's behaviour, then we are here to help. Please check out our website www.thedoglearningcentre.co.uk or social media for details of how to get in touch with us. Video consultations available so distance is no longer a barrier to learning.

Have fun and enjoy safe play with your dogs