

Brain Training Games..... Bring Out the Genius in Your Dog – If you are looking for new ways to challenge your dog and want to keep busy for hours. In addition, this gives you a great way to interact and bond further with your dog. This mini clinic is inspired by Brain Games online class from Spirit Dog.

- **Keys to this training**
- Don't let dog get frustrated. Either assist dog OR take a step back to where the dog was successful
- Stay relaxed and remember you and the dog are having fun with these games
- Practice games with your dog several times once they are successful, they may change the way they solve the puzzle

Get That Treat – several variations of this game – problem solving

1. Treat in bottom of mug with paper towel roll
2. Hide treat under a cloth – point to treat – get it
3. Harder version – Use folded towel or bamboo mat or yoga mat
 - a. Hide treat and roll – roll once to start
 - b. Advance to multiple treats and multiple folds in towel

Muffin Tin – play time

- Put treat in muffin tin then cover with tennis ball or rolled up socks
- Harder – put multiple treats and hide with tennis balls
- More Advanced – put treats under some balls but not all

Trick or Treat (or Toy)

- Focus and Impulse control game
- Show dog a treat and put by the dog, then ask your dog to do a trick (Sit, Touch, Spin, Rollover, Etc)
- Once trick is done, then dog eats treat
- If treat is too enticing, move treat further away until successful
- Work up to multiple tricks before treating and/or higher value treats

Goodbye My Food

- Focus and Impulse Control game - Use low value treat for this game
- The challenge of this game is to have your dog move away from the food.
- Put treat to the side between dog and object (mat or chair) have dog “Go to Mat” or “Go Around” The goal is to have dog do the task and then reward from your hand. If too difficult move treats further away

Brain Games continued....

Which Position

- Problem solving game for your dog
- Challenge dog with changing position from initial position, something your dog hasn't done before
- Position A then ask for Position B
 - Sit => Rollover
 - Stand => Sit Pretty
 - Down => Shake
 - Down => Spin
- If dog is having trouble, then lure into correct position

Handstand or 2 On 2 Off

- Physical challenge for your dog
- Put cushion or board next to wall, then guide/ask dog to walk over it, reward when dog has back legs on object and front legs on floor. Repeat several times
- Next step put cushion or board in middle of room, then have dog walk over object, reward when back legs on object and front legs on floor.
- Next challenge – higher objects and unstable objects

Around we Go

- Variation on Handstand
- Once dog can do Handstand, then work on dog moving around the object in Handstand

Side Legs Up

- Use low object – board or cushions
- The goal is to have the dog with left side on board/cushion and right side on ground. Practice both sides.
- Trainer needs to be in position to lure and reward generously
- More difficult – try walking with left side up and right on floor, practice both sides. Movement should be controlled
- Reward generously for proper position

Up & Down, Up & Down

- Variation of above games using boards, cushions – Start with stable and move to Unstable objects
- The movements should be focused and controlled, not running over objects.
- Front feet up, All Feet, Back Feet and repeat
- More Difficult Variation – Move objects apart -just a small gap to begin – Have dog “jump” over gap
- Eventually widen gap

Brain Games continued....

Find It... Easy Scent Games

- Scent Games are a great way to stimulate your dog and have some fun!
- If your dog hasn't played scent games, start easy. Help your dog be successful
- Start with your dog in a Sit-Wait – let your dog see you put a treat across the room, then release your dog to Get It.
- Then progress, to hide treats behind and under furniture. Also, move to hiding in other parts of the room.
- This is so fun for you and your dog!!