

Next week- Bring (3) "Sit" targets & (1) Inflated ball

Treibball Week 1 Homework

This new sport involves 8 large balls, two goal posts and your dog (& you). Dogs are only allowed to move the balls with their nose or body (no feet or teeth). The balls should be at least shoulder high to the dog.

Competition Level Treibball rules:

The playing field is the size of half a soccer ball field (100-165 feet) and a regular goal width (8 yards/24 feet wide) but it could also be a hobby sized goal (smaller). At the start, the eight colored exercise balls are arranged in a triangle shape (similar to billiard) in a 4, 3, 1 pattern with the single ball on the side farthest from the handler. There is enough room between the balls for the dog to squeeze between them.

The dog's task is to push the balls into the goal as fast as possible (15 min. time limit). To make it more challenging, the dog has to drive the balls in a given sequence. For example, first the blue, then the red, etc. are to be driven into the goal. Typically, the single ball on the far side of the pattern must be the first ball into the goal. After that, it may be handler's choice or the judge may select an order of retrieval.

The handler must stay within arm's length of the goal, moving farther from the goal results in penalty points. The dog may be directed with whistles, verbal cues and/or arm signals. Penalty time is added for yelling at the dog or otherwise putting pressure on the dog. The team that gets all the balls into the goal with the fastest time and least penalty points wins.

Adding narrow passes/bottle necks and water ditches add degrees of difficulty to the task, but that is for the advanced level. What matters at the beginning is that the dog learns how to retrieve the balls in the order designated by the handler while remaining under control.

Example video of these steps: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jI_2kAFHkC4

Go to place and sit (This will be used to direct your dog from ball to ball when the balls are introduced in later classes.)

NO VERBAL CUE unless you're 100% sure the dog will quickly go to the target and sit

1. Walk backwards over target and end with dog sitting on target-

Place the small target on the ground.

With the dog in front of you and the target behind you, back up until the dog is over the target and cue the dog to sit on it- click the sit and reward

2. Lure dog onto target into a sit- With the dog next to the target, use a food/toy/or hand target to move the dog over to the floor target and cue him to sit on it- click the sit and reward

3. See if dog will "go sit" on his own- with the target right next to the dog, either wait for the dog to offer a sit on the target or help by pointing or looking at the target to see if the dog will go and sit on it. If he does, click and give a reward. If not, go back to step 2 for another time or two.

4. **Move the target around the space-** Be sure to practice these steps in multiple different places in the room and in your house/yard.

5. **Add distance gradually-** Once the dog understands that sitting on the target makes you click and dispense rewards, you can start adding some distance.

Have the dog start 2 steps from the target

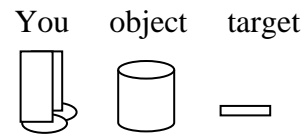
Have the dog start 3 steps from the target

Gradually add more distance the dog has to travel, but don't always make it harder. Sometimes throw in an easier/closer trip

6. **Add object between target and handler-** When the dog will quickly and confidently go all the way across a large room to sit on the target, you'll add in an object.

- The object can be anything EXCEPT a ball ☺ Use a laundry basket, an ottoman, a stool, a chair, whatever. The dog needs to still go to the target/sit.
- At first, you'll be close so you can reward quickly.

- Gradually add the distance again
- Try these steps in other areas



Nose Push (with tape)

1. Hand target

Have the dog touch your hand with his nose (can put tape in your palm)

2. Put tape on doors, drawers, cabinets, wheeled toys, rolled up carpet, etc. -

Have the dog nose push as many different objects as possible, preferably things he can move with the nose push

Place the small piece of tape at the dog's elbow height or lower

Repeat the pushing without the tape

3. Switch areas/objects

Work on touches in different locations on different objects

Go Around

Go around any object- we'll be working on this in an exercise next week. The dog will do better if he already has the concept of "go around" an object

- Any object can be used for this. You can use hand signals and/or food luring to help the dog go around any object- **have dog circle both directions**
- Gradually increase your distance from the object

