

Treibball Week 3 homework

<p>Next week- Bring (3 or 4) “Sit” targets & (1) Inflated ball (1) Towel</p>

1. Directional Control-

- a. Review moving the dog between 3 targets (side to side and forward/back)
- b. Add Distance– once the dog will correctly move, on your signal only, between the targets as you direct, try moving back a step. Gradually work this exercise with you farther and farther from the targets.
- c. Vary the position of the targets- Move them out of a straight line pattern
Move back in close to the targets till the dog figures out how to respond to your directional signals, even when the targets are not in a line.
- d. Add an object in front of the targets and gradually add the distance back in.

2. Add the “push” or “bop” behavior to the ball – Put target tape on the ball. Tape needs to be low on the ball so that the dog pushes or bops the ball from the bottom. This eliminates the potential for “pokes” which cause the ball to move only a few inches. You’ll brace the ball between your legs and click only for nose pushes. Be sure dog is pushing on the side of the ball that is farthest from you (not the sides).

- a. At first, any nose contact gets clicked. Do not click pawing or biting
- b. Then click for any touch that was stronger than the last few or that indents the ball.

3. Roll the ball –

- a. Put a target on the far side of the ball for the dog to “station on” until the push cue is given.
- b. Hold the ball a little in front of you and let it roll a few inches when the dog pushes it. This lets the dog see that a nose push moves the ball. Send the dog back to the target while you reposition the ball. Dog needs to wait for the “push” cue.
- c. Move the ball around the target to practice having the dog push the ball toward different walls of the room, but always pushing it toward you. The ball should always be between you and the target.

Note: If the dog starts to bark at any of the steps of this training, immediately take a break and let the dog calm down. Barking means the end of the fun. It won’t take long for the dog to figure out that the way to keep playing the game is to be quiet. You may need to keep yourself low-key to prevent the dog from getting overly excited.

4. **Brace the ball-** Use a rolled up towel, dog food dish, plastic lid, some type of ring, etc. under the ball or work in the grass to keep the ball from rolling around on its own and also to require the dog to push harder to move it.

- a. By putting the ball in the object or on the grass, you can move a step or two away from it and the dog has to push lower to lift the ball out of the object that is keeping it in place. Send the dog back to the target to properly position the dog on the far side of the ball so the push sends the ball rolling to you.

Have the dog wait for the “push” cue while you reposition the ball and step away.

You may find the dog prefers to move the ball with his/her chest or shoulders. That is ok as long as the ball is consistently moving toward you and the dog is not contacting the ball with a foot. Moving the ball toward you is an important part of this step, so be sure the dog understands that before progressing.

5. **Move around-** Work through the above steps in different locations; your yard, the park, the training center, etc. The more places you practice, the better the dog will understand his job.

- a. Also be sure to move the ball around the target so the dog realizes that the “opposite side of the ball” is where he should be.
- b. You can add difficulty by changing surfaces that the dog works on (grass, asphalt, concrete, rugs, training mats, etc) because each of these will affect the ball differently.

** Don’t take more than a few steps backwards (step 4 above) until next week. Keep the dog successful in moving the ball directly toward you. We’ll add additional difficulty next week.

ONLY reward when the dog gets the ball to you without you needing to move sideways.

The dog needs to get in the habit/pattern of:

Push – target – push – target – push – target

This will help the dog learn to stay straight and reposition on the side of the ball opposite you.