

Teaching To Fetch

Step 1:

Have your dog on a leash and have on hand an appropriate toy for the dog to retrieve. Let the dog investigate it with his/her nose and mouth. Say “YES!” and reward (food, etc) for merely touching the object.

Step 2:

Once your dog is consistently touching the object when it is presented, phase out rewarding for touching the object and start rewarding for when the dog takes the object into his/her mouth. Say “YES!” and reward every time the dog holds the object.

Step 3:

When your dog is consistently taking the toy into his/her mouth, start holding it closer to the ground as you present it. Rewarding each time you get closer to the ground. Once you are able to put the toy on the ground and your dog picks it up you are ready to go to the next step.

Step 4:

Now toss the object about 1-2 feet away from your dog. When she picks it up, encourage him/her to bring it back and reward when she does bring it back. This will create a strong reinforcement for him/her to pick up the object and bring it back to you every time to get the reward.

