

TRIXIE



Dog
Activity

Chess

(USA) Instructions
Chess

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Chess

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Chess

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USA General Advice

1. This game is designed to be played together with your dog. Please do not leave the dog unsupervised with the toy.
2. Set the toy somewhere that allows your dog to walk around to find his ideal playing position.
3. Choose a calm training atmosphere. We recommend one-on-one training (if you have more than one dog, train only one at a time and preferably in a separate room).
4. Set fair goals, and do not expect too much from your dog. This way you will have a lot of fun during training.
5. To avoid overtaxing your dog, restrict the exercises to short sections (max. 10 minutes) and repeat several times a day.
6. Help keep your dog motivated in the beginning by helping him to accomplish the task. It is necessary – especially at the start – that your dog associates this game with a positive result which will occur if your dog is successful quickly and is rewarded quickly. At the beginning you might also give your dog a reward just for trying the toy. As soon as your dog realizes that it is a 'food game' he will quickly understand the task and enjoy playing.
7. If your dog does not accomplish the task, try to motivate him with compliments and petting. It is better to take one step back if he does not reach the next goal. Never scold or punish your dog.
8. To spark your dog's interest, initially fill the game with treats in his presence. To increase the level of difficulty later, fill the game with treats in his absence.
9. Choose the ideal start time. Wait until approximately 1 ½ hours after your dog has eaten before beginning the game. You can also feed your dog while playing by substituting the treats with the dog's usual dry food.
10. Always start the game with a signal (e. g. 'Play!') and finish with a break-off signal (e. g. 'Stop!') immediately after your dog finds all of the treats. If your dog follows that signal, reward him with an additional treat and ensure a calm and positive ending.
11. The training should always conclude with a feeling of success.

Attention:

Neither 'right' nor 'wrong' exists in this game. Each dog – like people – is an

individual and is going to find his own methods. Let your dog decide whether to accomplish the task with snout or paws, whether to pull or push the elements, and in which order. This means that your dog might differ from the following instructions which are only suggestions for a possible way to work out an easy and meaningful solution with your dog. Nevertheless your dog might show approaches or tendencies that are not described below.

As a general rule:

Do not allow your dog to carry the toy away or to destroy it (this is often a sign of frustration or excessive demand).

We wish you and your dog a lot of fun and success with the different exercises!

Training

Please carry the exercises out one after another. Do not increase the level of difficulty before your dog has accomplished the current exercise. Praise your dog after every successful action.

The training can begin

Important advice: Chess is very challenging for most dogs. Therefore pay careful attention while playing and encourage your dog. At the beginning you should reward any nose or paw contact with the slider by moving the slider yourself or together with your dog to find a treat.

The difficulty of this game: The slider that is first opened has to be moved back to its starting position to ease the opening of the second slider. This point should be reviewed several times with your dog so that he understands.

1. Start the training on one row with three compartments. Fill both circular compartments in your dog's presence and close them so that they are half-open. This will allow your dog to quickly find the treat and have immediate success. To allow your dog concentrate on the row in question, cover the other ones with, for example, a cloth at the beginning.
2. Give your dog the start signal e. g. 'Play!'. Your dog will now try to find the treat. If he has any difficulties, please help. Show your dog how to move the slider and praise him a lot,

especially during these first attempts.

3. Repeat the exercise until your dog clearly understands that there is a reward when he moves the slider to the side.
4. To increase the level of difficulty, gradually cover the filled compartments more and more. Repeat the exercise until your dog is able to move a completely closed slider to get the reward.
5. When your dog is able to open and move the sliders of one row by himself, you can add another row with three compartments to the game.
6. As soon as your dog is able to play the game with both rows you can also include the small row. The unique feature here is that the position of this row is not parallel, but vertical to the other ones. The challenge for your dog is that he has to take a different position to the board or learn to move the slider in another direction.
7. Once your dog can play all three rows without your assistance, include the cones as well. At the beginning they are placed above the long lines. To spark your dog's interest, hide treats there too.
8. When your dog has learned to take notice of the cones, you can increase the level of difficulty further by putting the cones between the sliders and placing a treat under each cone. Your dog will learn that he now has to lift up the cone before he can move the sliders.