

FIND IT

Dog learns to search for food pieces on cue



Why We Train It:

- Fun and easy game
- Management: keep dog's attention away until stimulus disappears
- Engages the dog's seeking/scavenging instincts
- Great and easy way to incorporate scent enrichment
- Get dog moving on their own without using leash to pull/drag
- Dog should be finding food using their nose, not their eyes.

Follow the plan and use **Push/Drop/Stick** rules for training.

Practice each step 5 times.

PUSH to the next step in the plan if the dog gets 4 or 5 out of 5 right.

DROP to the previous step in the plan if the dog gets less than 3 out of the 5 right.

STICK to the current step in the plan if the dog gets 3 out of the 5 right.

This is how to measure whether the dog is learning or just guessing. It's also how we measure whether the current step is too hard, too easy or just right.

FIND IT PLAN

Do each step 5 times and follow Push/Drop/Stick Rules



STEP	What You Do	What Dog Does	Notes/Splits
1	Say "Find It", pause 1 second, toss a treat right in front of your dog so they can't miss it, Mark "yes" just as the dog is about to eat. it.	Sniffs/investigates food piece. Finds it and eats it.	Use stinky treat to encourage investigation.
2	Same but tossed a little farther away from dog	Same	
3	Same but tossed less obviously.		Use novel food if dog is struggling to locate.
4	Tossed without dog knowing you will be tossing	Dog finds food. Dog should be locating on scent NOT visual/not because the dog saw where you tossed it.	
5	Plant food (without dog watching) in easy to find locations inside. Then cue dog to "find it." Praise and "happy talk" when dog makes a find.	Dog finds food/eats it.	
6	Same but plant in more hidden indoor locations.	Same	
7	Same but plant in easy outdoor (yard) locations.	Same	
8	Same but plant in hidden outdoor (yard) locations.	Same	
8	Cue "find it" and then toss ahead on walks (1-2 feet)	Same	Start on low distraction walks and gradually increase difficulty (like in the presence of dogs/people)