

All Big Canines, LLC 760-278-4248 www.AllBigCanines.com



- Training is hard work! Even though positive training is fun, it is hard work for your pet. It's mentally stimulating and enriching (which is one reason why it's a great activity to do with him or her). But it is most effective when done in short chunks of time. If you train for too long, you risk frustrating and exhausting your dog. Just as many of us would prefer to listen to several short lectures (think TED talks) than one long one, it is much easier and more fun for pets to train in short sessions.
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 - How long is best? As a general guideline, three minutes is plenty long for most dogs. Dogs new to training should be given even shorter sessions. Puppies might only be able to train for 1 minute at a time. (Yes, really.) Although their little brains are quite capable of learning quickly, they have very short attention spans, so they need frequent breaks. Many dogs (especially experienced dogs) are capable of training for longer, but three minutes is a good guideline. It is always best to end with your dog wanting more, rather than working them to the point of fatigue or frustration.
 - How do I keep track of time? There are a couple of options here.
 One is to set a timer for 2 to 3 minutes. When the timer goes off
 (perhaps put your phone on vibrate), your training session is over.
 Another option is to pre-count a set number of treats (say 10 to
 20). Once the treats are gone, it's time to end your training
 session.

- End training sessions thoughtfully. Ending a fun training session abruptly (for example, simply because you've run out of treats or your timer went off) can feel very unfair to the pet. Always keep that in mind, and either toss him a few treats for free, offer a chew toy, play a quick game of fetch or tug, give him a belly rub if he enjoys that, invite him outside for a walk, or do something else he enjoys.
- When in doubt, shorter is better! While it's easy to ruin a good training session by training too long, it's almost impossible to have a training session that's too short. Some training sessions are just one repetition long. For example, if you're working on having the puppy not jump up on people who come through the door, a "training session" might consist of a friend coming to the door, greeting the puppy by scattering a handful of treats on the ground (therefore providing an alternative for the jumping up), and loving on the puppy a bit.



1. Breakfast & Dinner for enrichment

- 1. Take your dogs meal and portion it into 5 or 6 small piles.
- 2. Place those piles around your back yard, fenced in front yard, or home.
- 3. Encourage your dog to forage for their meal by walking around with them and pointing the meal piles out.
- 4. Excitedly exclaim FIND IT right before your dog starts to eat.

This engages your dogs sense of smell, starts getting them on primary odor, makes them walk around, and pays them for engaging in their natural foraging behavior.

1. The Scatter Game

- 1. Take your dogs meal or a portion of your dogs meal.
- Take it outside.
- 3. Scatter it across your lawn, outdoor rug, or pavers
- 4. Spread it out over a 10x10 space if possible.
- 5. Allow your dog to engage in their natural foraging behaviors.

1. Natural Scent Piles

- 1. When doing your gardening this week rake leaves and cut grass into a pile.
- 2. Allow your dog to sniff, roll, and play in the debris.
- 3. Clean up when your dog is done
- 4. Providing natural scent and tactile materials for your dog to engage with allows them a cheap, easy, and fun way to play.

Sticks with treats

- 1. Sticks with holes already in them or ones that you can easily drill holes into make for great activities
- 2. Simply pull a piece a rope through the hole to make for a fetch or tug toy
- 3. Add some treats or chews into the holes for an added spin on a natural chew
- 4. Pick natural wood and not mad made wood as it is likely to splinter or be treated with chemicals.

1. Muffin tins are not just for baking

- 1. Take a muffin tin
- 2. Fill each muffin spot with a treat or some of their meal
- 3. Cover each muffin spot with a tennis sized ball or dog toy of similar size
- 4. Watch your dog figure out how to move the toys, play with them and get treats.

- 1. Jumping the broom- no longer just for weddings
 - 1. Take your broom and place it on the floor
 - 2. Lure your dog over the broom with a treat placed in front of their nose and slowly brought over the broomstick and onto the other side. Even leaning over gets your dog paid
 - 3. Once your dog is walking over the broom over and over again you will then raise the broom by tucking one side on the edge of something that is stable and about 4-6 inches off the ground so it is raised on one side and on the floor on another side.
 - 4. Repeat step 2
- 1. Walking on a loose leash
 - 1. Walks are truly an enrichment activity.
 - 2. Allowing your dog to sniff plants, rocks, fences, curbs, lawns, etc and walk relaxed aids in ensuring you get the most mental engagement out of your walk.
 - 3. Note we said relaxed leash. This means no pulling. When pulling occurs stop the walk or change directions and pay with treats toys & continued walks
- 1. A cone, is a cone, is a cone? Nope- its social communication
 - 1. Take 3 cones or 3 opaque containers/cups
 - 2. Place treats under each cone
 - 3. If your dog struggles to flip over the cone help them by lifting it and letting them have their treat
 - 4. Slowly reduce it to 2 cones with a treat and then go to one cone.
 - 5. Limit your time to 3 or 4 minutes total time. Provide an extra reward if your dog finds the cone with the reward but looks to you

If you need more enrichment activities or additional training Curriculums please email us. You will receive a new set of enrichment In your email for next week. We appreciate you and will miss You for these next 2 week.