

# Nose Games

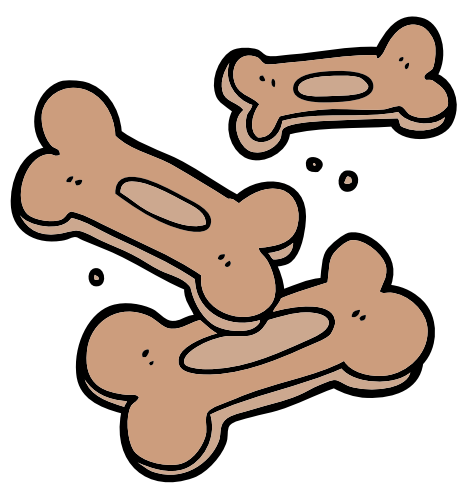
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## Hunt for your Dinner



Using your dog's food bowl as a visual to help them learn the hunting game is a great way to start! While your dog is outside or out of ear shot, put their dinner or breakfast in their bowl and put it around the corner or slightly out of sight. When you are ready, bring them into the room and give them a verbal cue of 'find it'. You can either walk casually by the bowl or wait for them to start searching for their dinner!

2



## Hunt for Treats

While your dog is outside, hide a few of their favorite treats around a room. Start with easy locations such as in front of the couch or just on the other side of the chair, then move them to harder locations as your dog learns the game. Behind curtains and in the seat cushions can be very difficult!

3



## Hunt for a Toy

Take your dog's favorite toy and hide it in various locations throughout your house. Always start with easy locations until your dog learns the game. You can even toss it into different locations while your dog watches to encourage them to hunt! Watching your dog eventually search your entire home for the toy is fun and they will be exhausted!

4



## Hunt for You

Play hide and seek with your dog! Distract them with a thrown treat or a toy and then hide in different locations in your house. Have a party when they find you!

5

## Hunt for Friends

Using some of your dog's favorite people, have them hide in or around familiar locations for your dog. When your dog finds them, have them feed your dog favorite treats or play with a favorite toy!



6

## Enroll in a Class



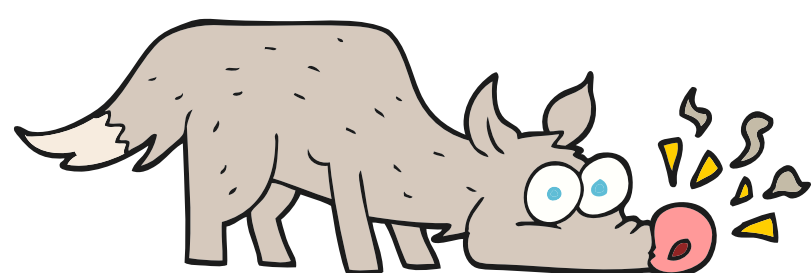
Consider enrolling in a nosework class near you! Whether you compete or not, the activity is fun for your dog and will keep their brain busy!



## Ideas to Overcome Distractions During Scent Work

- Start with EASY distractions.
  - Your dog defines easy! Your dog may find that carrots are more distracting than celery, so start with celery.
  - BIG PARTY when the dog finds target odor!
- Make the distraction inaccessible first.
  - Start with easy distractions in containers/locations the dog can not penetrate.
  - BIG party when the dog finds target odor!
  - Then move to slightly more accessible less desirable distractions. Put things in suet cages.
  - Then put undesirable distractions out in the open.
  - BIG party when the dog finds target odor.
- Rinse and Repeat all of this for more desirable distractions.
- Keep in mind that your reinforcer (food/toy) is the ultimate distractor so search past that last!
- Practice your hunt games in marginally distracting areas to get lots of repetitions of the search, locate, report chain.

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## Using “Go Sniff” as a Reinforcer!

If your dog LOVES to sniff things, that is an ULTIMATE reinforcer! And then remember that the ultimate reinforcer is the ultimate distractor.

- Ask for a small behavior, it might be attention, a sit, a down.
- When the dog completes the behavior, tell them to ‘go sniff’.
- ALLOW them to go sniff and when they look at you, **ERUPT into a party** and provide another great reinforcer (food/toy).
- You may need to limit their area using a leash, but do NOT use the leash to get their attention.
- PAYING them for giving you their attention is key.
- Ask for another behavior while they are engaged with you.
- When they do it, tell them to ‘go sniff’.
- Rinse and repeat! You will find that if you are using the correct reinforcement, the amount of time the dog ends up sniffing will decrease quickly!