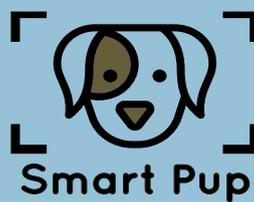
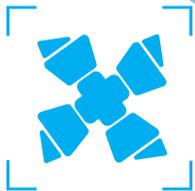


TOOLS



Mousey Mousey

What do I need?

Round or Cubed Treats

This is one of my favourite games it was taught to me by Helen Phillips from Kay Laurence's Learning About Dogs. They use it for shaping behaviours, I have adapted it slightly to build on executive function skills for inhibitory control. This game teaches your puppy to focus on something other than you (Cognitive stability), to wait patiently while excited controlling impulses (Inhibitory control), and to switch from stillness to movement (Cognitive flexibility). It uses predatory play which is how many animals learn these skills. You need some nice visual training treats that you will be able to flick with your fingers across the floor. The Simpsons training treats are perfect for this or you can chop the JR Pate into squares. The treats are going to be the mouse.

TROUBLE SHOOTING



My puppy is trying to dig the mouse out!

If your puppy tries to paw at your hand to get the mouse, this will hurt so quickly move your hand and the mouse away, so your puppy learns this is not an effective strategy.

STEP 1

Place the piece of cheese on the floor with your hand over it, this is the mouse in its hole. If your puppy attempts to get the mouse by sticking its nose in the hole, hold your hand over it. Your puppy needs to back off and wait patiently for the mouse to pop its nose out.

STEP 2

As soon as your puppy backs off, push the treat with your hand so it moves, and your puppy can catch it.

STEP 3

Repeat this around four times or until your puppy is happily backing off and has learnt the first rule of the game.

STEP 4

Now your puppy has learnt that patience gets the mouse, you can start to lift your hand up so the mouse is exposed, this is the mouse poking its nose out for a couple of seconds.

STEP 5

a) If your puppy lunges forwards put your hand back over the mouse. b) If your puppy waits for just one second, push or flick the mouse across the floor.

STEP 6

Your puppy now needs to learn to wait patiently for the mouse to feel that it is safe enough to leave the hole. As the mouse decides to run this is where you flick the treat, your puppy can then chase and catch it.

STEP 7

You can now build the duration of how long your puppy can wait patiently for the mouse to run.

