

Good Dog Works!

For Dogs, Puppies and People Too.

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The Game of Tug!

Tug can be a great game to teach your dog for the following reasons:

- is a great reward for other behaviour!
- gives your dog an appropriate outlet for his "prey" drive, instead of your pant leg.
- teaches the dog to release a prized object when he is really revved up.
- teaches bite inhibition because the game ends if the dog accidentally bites your hand.

Operating Instructions for Tug

The Tug Toy is not a chew toy it is only available when you want to reward or play with your dog. Tug sessions are brief 3-10 seconds.

Drag the tug side to side on the floor and invite the dog to "Take it" and when he does you tug--gently.

When you decide you say "Out" and go perfectly still and look away from the dog. S/he will probably continue to pull but you don't tug back. Carefully gather up any loose ends and wait.

Wait for that split second when she lets go, remove the tug. Wait for a relatively calm few seconds and invite your dog to sit and then reward with tug. The reward for letting go is to be allowed to play again.

Your dog occasionally wins the tug toy when you give permission by saying "alright, you win" and let go of it.

Let your dog know that the game is over by saying, all done.

Tug Rules:

- Pick one toy to play Tug with. We don't want the dog to generalize Tug to all toys.
- Control access to the toy. Do not leave the toy lying around - you initiate the Tug game.
- The dog is not allowed to start tugging until you "cue" the game. Pick a word. I say "Tug!" Then present the toy and start playing.
- The dog **MUST** release the toy on command. Cue the release by putting a treat right by the dog's nostrils and say "Give or "out" or "drop it"

Fine Tuning

If your dog makes a mistake and grabs your hand, touches you with a tooth or jumps on you , screech "OUCH!" and gather up the toy. The game ends for a short time (long enough to make an impression - short enough that you don't lose attention).

Then re-present the toy and give your Tug cue. Your dog should play with more caution.

If you have a dog who prefers to grab the Tug close to your hand or creeps up the rope to your hand use a rigid toy like a Frisbee or a Flying Squirrel instead.