



## Cheeky Dog Obedience

Relaxed, Positive Reinforcement Dog Training

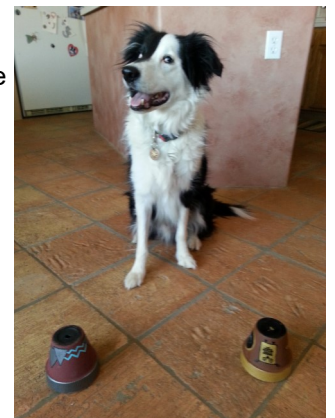
## The Shell Game!



The Shell Game is a fun game for you and your dog. It uses your dog's brain and when they are successful there is a treat involved. For you... you get to interact and watch your dog learn. If you are training in any of the scent work sports the shell games can help build a "find it".

You will need translucent food storage bowls with holes punched in the top and turned over.

- Start with two translucent food storage bowls with holes punched in the top and turn them over. With your dog sitting in front of you, place a treat under **one** of the bowls. Wait for your dog to touch the bowl with their nose. Reward them with lots of praise and then they get the treat!! When your dog has done this consistently five to six times, add the command, "find it" or "get it".
- Then you can start placing the treat under the bowl and move the cups around – (hence, the shell game). Be sure and let your dog watch you place the treat under the bowl before moving the locations. If your dog does not choose the correct bowl that is fine – just show him the correct bowl and the treat under the bowl but he can't have the treat. This is not as easy as it sounds – this is a very visual game and the dogs must learn to use their eyes, nose and mental processing skills.
- Once, your dog is consistent with the two bowls increase the difficulty by using a third bowl.
- Be sure and mark the bowl that covers the treat so you can be consistent which one you put the treat under – you don't want the scent being found in each bowl.
- You can ask for more by asking your dog to use their paw to nudge the bowl instead of their nose. A dog's natural frustration will help this to occur. Now, when you ask your dog to "find it" they can't have the treat until they touch with their paw. If you need to hold onto the bowl to keep them from knocking or pushing the bowl over that is fine. Remember, paw, praise and then reward!
- If your dog does well at this level, increase the difficulty again by taking away the visual and use clay pots. The clay pots have the drain hole for the scent and will be heavier and not so easy to knock over. Start with one pot until your dog is consistent, and then increase the level of difficulty to two pots. It might be a good idea to rub the treat around the underside of the hole in the pot to help with the scent. When your dog is consistent in "finding" the correct pot then start moving the two pots and then maybe even introduce a third!



*Not all dogs will do well with this game at the higher levels and that is absolutely fine! Start easy and as their consistency increases and is solid take it to the next level.*

**Remember, we want your dog to be successful and not frustrated.**

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