



## Indoor and Kid Games to Play with your Dog

Dogs love to play games. With the weather becoming colder outside, we have to find ways to play with our dogs inside. Below are some fun games you can play with your dog.

### *Dog and Kid Games*

*These games should all be done under the supervision of an adult(s).*

#### Go Wild and Freeze Game

Need: Treats.

Game: Have dogs start in a sit. Someone will yell, “Go Wild.” Then, kids get excited, jumping up and down, jogging, etc. and the dogs start to interact with them. Then, someone yells “Freeze.” Everyone stops. Whichever dog is closest to the person, you ask that dog to sit or down. When they do, they you start again with “Go Wild,” etc.

This is a good game for learning impulse control for the dogs and learning to listen to the kids.

#### Red Light/Green Light

Need: Treats.

Game: Have the dogs in a sit or down. Someone says “Green light.” The kids start walking. Then, someone will say “Red Light.” The kids stop moving and ask the dog to sit. When they do, they reward them. This helps the dogs learn that when movement ceases, they need to stop and sit or down.

#### Fetch

Need: Toy or other objects

Game: This is always a fun game to play with dogs who like to fetch. Have the kids ask the dog for a sit. Then, throw the object. If the dog retrieves, have the dog bring the object back, and repeat. It is important that the dogs do not have resource guarding issues, have a release cue, and are okay with kids taking the object from them.

#### Tricks

Need: Treats.

Game: Tricks can be great fun for both the dogs and the kids. It helps kids teach a dog a new skill and show them off later.



## *Indoor Games*

### Muffin Tin Game

Need: 1 muffin tin (these come in 6, 12, or 24 usually)  
Treats/kibble  
Tennis balls

Game: Place treats in muffin tins. Then, place the tennis balls over the treats. Many dogs use their noses to realize there is a treat underneath the ball. Then, they pick up the tennis balls or bat at them with their paws to get the treats. It may take your dog a few times to figure out the game but many really enjoy it.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhIWa\\_W3QxY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhIWa_W3QxY)

### Find It

Need: Treats or toys and other miscellaneous items

Game: To teach find it, first show your dog a piece of treat/kibble or a toy. Then, toss it on the ground and say “find it.” Once your dog has the basic idea, you can begin to make it more difficult by hiding it. Ask your dog to “stay,” then hide the treat/toy/object behind a piece of furniture. The, release your dog to go find it. After that, place the treat/toy/object underneath a towel, blanket, cloth, etc. and release your dog to go find it. If your dog gets really good with this, place the treat/toy/object in another room where your dog cannot see you hide it. Then, release your dog to go find it. Be creative with what your dog finds and where you place the treat/toy/object.

### Hide and Seek

Need: Treats/toy

Game: Ask your dog to sit while you hide somewhere. This can be behind the couch, in another room, behind a door, etc. Then, you call your dog’s name, “Rover, come.” Once your dog finds you, reward with treats and/or a toy. Another variation is having your parent hold onto your dog and then sending them to go find you with “Rover, find Sarah.” Make it easy at first to find you, then gradually make it harder.

### Shell Game

Need: Treats, plastic containers (not see through)--at least 3. Small or large yogurt containers, small flower pots, metal tins works well.

Game: Take 3 containers and place a treat underneath one of them. Let your dog see where you hid the treat at first. Then, release your dog to go find which container the treat is hidden under.



Once your dog finds it, repeat the process but move the containers around, so your dog doesn't know which container has the treat under it. You can add more containers to make it harder too.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mQrS6n4kJU>

### Nose Work

Need: Boxes—shoebox size works well or about 3-4 inch deep boxes. At least 3-5 boxes but more is better.

Treats

Game: Put several treats in a box and place somewhere on the floor. Place the other boxes on the floor, scattering them around. Release your dog to check out the boxes. When they find the box with the treats, begin dropping treats into the box. Then, pick up that box, place more treats in it, and while your dog is still hunting around in the other boxes, place that box on the ground. You can add variety to this by making it harder with more boxes or placing the boxes in different positions, like one box stacked on top of the other or under another box, etc. If your dog is very toy-oriented, use the toy as a reward for finding the correct box with food.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BycQ2MA1o\\_k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BycQ2MA1o_k)

Other Nose Work activities:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJxG--4t3SU>

### Recall

Need: Treats and Toys

Take a look at this video. There are a number of recall games you can play with your dog – Through the Legs, Follow the Body Round Recall, Hand Touch Recall, Scavenger Hunt Recall, and more. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8az4wxnbDQU>