



www.dog-games.co.uk

8 Dog-Games to do at home, at your local dog club, or at shows

www.dog-games.co.uk is a dedicated website that explains in detail how to train 8 DIFFERENT NON-COMPETITIVE GAMES. These Games help to develop the relationship between dogs and their handlers by using kind positive training methods. They can be played in a garden, nearby field, local dog club etc using very little specialised equipment, with minimal expense and storage. When a dog does a certificate attempt successfully a small fee of £2 is payable with the entry form (details are available from the website) - there are no hidden charges. These games have been designed to suit all ages and capabilities of both dog and handler – ranging from the dog learning to run back to its owner; retrieving; or jumping small hurdles etc, to running around traffic cones or touching a “target box” with its paw.

RECALL	Dog runs back to its owner *. “Obedience” commands such as <i>sit, stay, wait or down</i> are not required in any of these Dog-Games.
BOUNCE	Dog runs back to its owner over hurdles (either 6” or 8”, depending on a dog’s size) **
HAND	Dog retrieves ANY article that it enjoys carrying in its mouth. The article must not be thrown for the dog to chase and retrieve, instead a helper places it on a rubber car mat in one particular spot *
BOUNCE & HAND	Dog is sent over hurdles, retrieves an article (see Hand) and brings it back over the hurdles to its owner **
ROUND	Dog is sent to run round a large traffic cone and run back to its owner*
BOUNCE & ROUND	Dog sent over hurdles, runs round a large traffic cone and returns to its owner over the hurdles **
TOUCH	Dog touches a “marker” (eg. a piece of heavy duty sticky tape) with its paw – eventually it will touch the marker on a target box*
BOUNCE & TOUCH	Dog sent over hurdles, touches the target box with its paw and returns over the hurdles to its owner **
* Progressing to a distance of approx 51ft from the start/finish line (see diagram overleaf)	
** Progressing to jumping four 6” - 8” high hurdles over a distance of approx 51ft	

Each of the above Games is structured in stages so that the dog and handler can progress through them in their own time and to their own ability. These stages are –

- Starters (*learning*) - Dog learns the Game by progressing through a series of lessons on the website. The handler learns how to motivate the dog so that it wants to do the Game.
- Bronze (*consistency*) - Dog shows that it understands the Game by consistently doing it correctly.
- Silver (*distractions*) - Dog is trained to do the Game correctly while there are distractions nearby (eg. dogs running in a nearby netted lane).
- Gold (*near another dog*) - Dog is trained to do the Game correctly whilst another dog does the Game in the same lane. There is no Gold stage in Recall or Bounce.
- Platinum (*generalisation*) - Dog learns to do the Game in different venues.

The website explains all the training steps using kind positive training methods that help the dog to learn how to do the various games successfully. A4 leaflets for each Game can be printed off from the website, which explain the Game's objectives and criteria for each stage.

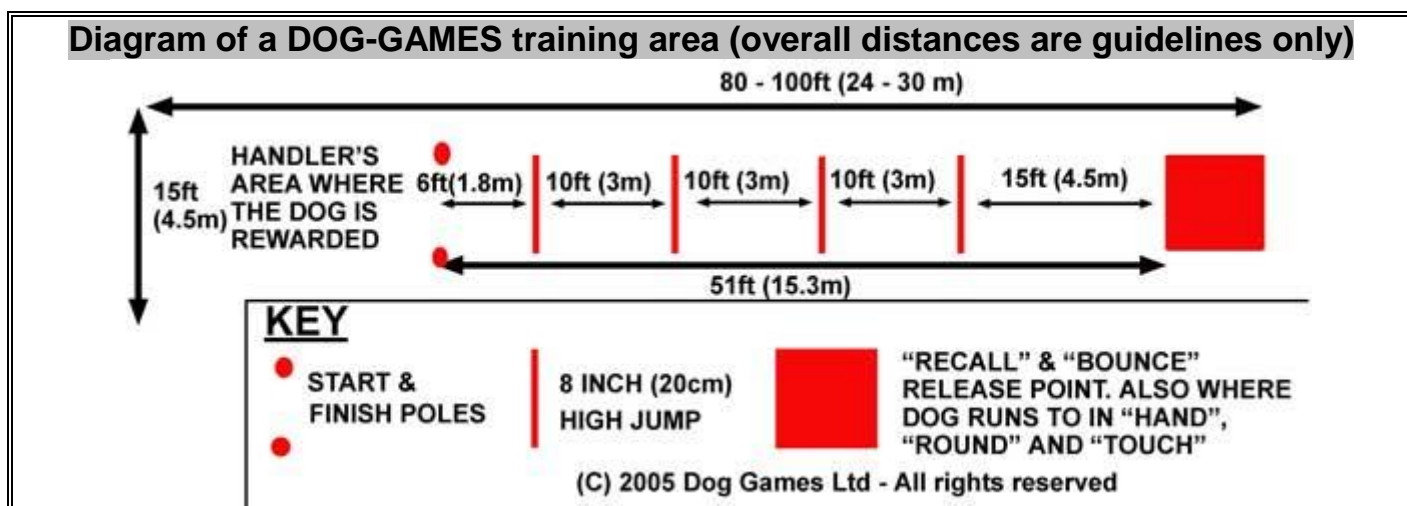
DOG-GAMES encourages owners to use toys, treats and other motivators to reward their dogs when doing these Dog-Games. A selection of unique toys, training aids, and treat boxes (which dogs can "steal" from) which are described on the website and are available from the website Shop or from our trade stand.

As well as rewarding the dog, the handlers are motivated and rewarded with certificates, rosettes and trophies as they progress through the various training stages of each of the Dog-Games. The dog's name, photo and achievements are also recorded on the website's Roll of Honour for friends and family to read and admire. We pride ourselves on the fact that our "Gamers" have strict privacy at all times and their details are never divulged without their written consent.

The variety of different Dog-Games means that every dog can progress at its own rate and ability without undue pressure, and does not have to cope with a competitive atmosphere. The Games can be done in any order but every dog must progress from the Starter Level of the Game.

The website encourages owners to fit their dogs with broad strapped and well-fitting harnesses (also available from our Shop) which prevents painful sensations around the dog's neck when it is held for a second or two in restrained recalls. The website also gives detailed explanations about various aspects of dog training and their behaviour. This includes how to work with dog's instinctive drives, how dogs learn, how they communicate with each other and humans, and how over-excitement and stress can affect their behaviour and ability to learn, etc (see "Understanding Your Dog" on the website).

Because there is no need for special "testers" when doing Dog-Games, individuals can do the training and games either by themselves or with friends and family at home, or in fields and parks nearby. Some dog owners prefer to join their local dog clubs who run Dog-Games sessions (perhaps once a month on a "Dog-Games Night") to add a new dimension to their usual dog training classes.



For further information –

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