

Swaps



Swaps are an amazing way of teaching our dog to happily drop something in their mouths.

Swapping toys is a brilliant, fun, way of teaching our dogs that if we ask them to drop whatever they have in their mouths, they're likely to get something even more awesome instead.

To play:

1. Find two toys of a similar nature that your dog likes to play with
2. Play tuggy with the first toy, keeping the second one hidden behind your back! (See separate sheet for tuggy help)
3. Make the first toy 'go dead' i.e. stop wiggling it around (but keep hold of it)
4. Produce the second toy and animate it as though your life depends on it!
5. Celebrate the very second your dog lets go of the first tuggy to move onto the second
6. Hide the first tuggy behind your back and have fun with the second one
7. Repeat!
8. To end the game, make the toy go dead and throw some treats on the floor

Adding in your cue

When you start to play, your dog will switch from toy one to toy two because they love shiny new things... because the second one moves, it **MUST** be more interesting!

When you've played this game enough that you would bet £50 they'll let go of the first toy as soon as they see the second, now is the time to add in your cue. I use 'swap' but you can use 'drop' or 'leave' or whatever you feel comfortable with.

1. Play with toy one
2. Let toy one go dead
3. Say your cue and count to one in your head
4. Produce your second toy
5. Mark the moment they let go of the first one

If you did a 'whoops' and they didn't switch, just go back to playing silently for a while.

Gradually increase how long you wait before bringing out the second toy

When you've got this down, make the game harder by using different toys!