



# The Cone Game

The cone game is a fabulous way to increase our dogs confidence, and is the starting point for teaching your dog to put their harness on themselves and for muzzle training.

## To play:

1. Grab a handful of treats and something cone shaped, (a cone, a plastic measuring jug, a plastic plant pot, whatever your dog can fit their nose into).

2. Sit on the floor with your dog (or a sofa; adapt to your heart's content) and hold the cone behind your back.

3. Pull the cone out from behind your back and show it to your dog with the opening facing towards them

4. As soon as they look at the cone, mark and reward them

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 a few times then start to wait until your dog moves their nose towards the cone before you mark and reward

6. Repeat a few times and then start to wait for them to move their nose closer to the opening before you mark and reward

7. Each time they get comfortable doing the harder behaviour, start looking for the next harder thing; perhaps pushing their nose a little further in, or keeping their nose inside for a tiny bit longer.

**Watch your dog closely in this game, if they look confused and stop offering behaviour, go back a step and reward and easier behaviour.**

This game is best played for very short periods of time because it's hard to develop confidence to put your head inside a random object!

## To make this game harder:

1. Try it with a variety of different objects

2. Try placing the object on the floor or on a surface rather than holding it

3. Can they keep their nose inside while you move your hands?