

Retrieve Part 2

Purpose:

Now that your dog is taking the retrieve tube and holding it for 10 seconds, you are ready to progress to the second part of the **Retrieve** exercise.

Continuing Steps for Teaching Retrieve:

Step 8 – You will teach your dog to sit when she has the retrieve tube in her mouth. Give your dog the signal to take the tube. Once she is holding the tube in her mouth, give her the **Sit** signal. You may use either or both your verbal and non-verbal **Sit** signals.

If your dog sits and the retrieve tube is still in her mouth, **Click/Treat**. If your dog drops the retrieve tube before she sits, use your **Try Again** signal. Say your **Try Again** signal as she lets go of the tube. You want your dog to know that not keeping the tube in her mouth was the incorrect choice.

Training Tip

If your dog consistently lets go of the retrieve tube before she sits, click her for any slight movement into the sit while the tube is still in her mouth. The slight movement might be just the bending of the legs or her body as she starts to sit. You want her to know that keeping the tube in her mouth when she sits is the correct behavior.

Step 9 – Once your dog will **Sit** and hold the retrieve tube for several seconds, it is time to add a release signal. This signal might be “Drop”, “Give”, “Thank You”, etc. Give the signal at the same time you click. Make sure you click while the tube is still in her mouth.

Step 10 – **Raise the Criteria**. Begin moving the retrieve tube in small increments toward the ground. **Click/Treat** for each successful retrieve of the tube as you move it towards the ground.

Training Tip

If it is difficult for you to reach the ground with the retrieve tube, you may use a low table or stool to do Step 10. Your goal is to have your dog pick up the tube from the surface rather than taking it from your hand.

Step 11 – **Raise the Criteria**. Place the Retrieve tube on the ground. Your hand may still touch the end of the tube. Give your dog the signal to retrieve the tube. If your dog picks up the tube, **Jackpot** her and end the training session.

Retrieve Part 2 continued

Training Tip

If your dog just looks at the retrieve tube and seems confused, you may have to lower your criteria and **Click/Treat** any movement toward the tube. Reinforce any movement toward the tube such as a head dip, touching the tube, or sniffing the tube. Once you have **Click/Treated** for interest in the tube, **Raise the Criteria**. Wait for your dog to attempt to open her mouth and grasp the tube. **Click/Treat** for this even if she does not lift it off the ground.

Step 12 – **Raise the Criteria**. **Click/Treat** your dog for picking up the retrieve tube from the ground. **Click/Treat** for raising her head with the tube in her mouth. **Click/Treat** for sitting with the tube and waiting for the signal to release the tube.

Savvy Advice

Be patient while you and your dog are learning the **Retrieve** exercise. The **Retrieve** exercise has many steps. With each new step, your dog must figure out what to do. If she seems confused, lower your criteria and back up a few steps. Reinforce a few times at this new level until your dog is doing what you want and then continue to the next step.

If your dog retrieves a ball or Frisbee, make sure that you have different signals for this play retrieve. Picking up items as an assistance task is a work retrieve.

As you are practicing the **Retrieve**, change your body position. Try standing, sitting in a chair, sitting on the floor, lying on a bed or sofa, kneeling, etc.